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**LAKEVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kellie McNeil of Lakeville North High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year. McNeil is the second Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeville North High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes McNeil as Minnesota's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, McNeil joins an elite alumni association of past state volleyball award winners, including USA Volleyball Olympians Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The 5-foot-11 senior setter led the Panthers to a 31-1 record and the Class AAA state title this past season. McNeil recorded 1,172 assists, 203 digs, 147 blocks, 132 kills and 66 service aces while averaging 13.1 assists per game. The 2010 Ms. Baden-Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year and the 2010 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* Metro Player of the Year, McNeil is the nation's No. 8 setter as rated by PrepVolleyball.com.

McNeil has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and volleyball coach, and on behalf of multiple food and holiday gift drives for families in need.

"Kellie McNeil is a phenomenal athlete with extraordinary jumping ability," said Lakeville North Assistant Head Coach Doug Bergman. "She runs a very complex offense and has superior leadership skills. She is without a doubt the best player on our team and in the state."

McNeil has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota beginning in the fall of 2011.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

McNeil joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year Ashley Wittman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Shakopee) and Jennifer Lopez (2007-08, DGF) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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