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**HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Victoria Nutting of Hancock High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year. Nutting is the first Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hancock 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 Nutting as Mississippi's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Nutting 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-9 senior setter and right side hitter led the Hawks to a 30-6 record and the Class III state title this past season. Nutting recorded 376 assists, 273 kills and 86 service aces and was named to the All-State team. She was also an All-District and All-Coast selection in each of the last two years.

Nutting has maintained an A-plus average in the classroom. A peer tutor at her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth basketball programs.

"Nutting is an all-court player," said Mike Meyers, head coach of rival Our Lady Academy. "She sets well, she can hit the ball, she plays great defense, she anticipates and gets to the ball. She's just a winner."

Nutting remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Nutting joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Players of the Year Alison Welch (2009-10, Olive Branch), Charquita Anderson (2008-09, Southaven) and Claire Franks (2007-08, Olive Branch) 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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