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**OZARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Jade Hayes of Ozark High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year.

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 Hayes as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Hayes 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 state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, the 6-foot senior outside hitter and middle blocker recorded 429 kills, 389 digs and 35 blocks this past season while posting a kill percentage of .458, leading the Tigers (34-6) to the Class 4 state semifinals. A 2010 American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American, Hayes was a member of the U.S. team that placed second at the Youth Olympic Games last August. She finished her prep career with 1,522 kills and 1,151 digs.

Hayes has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. The captain of her church youth group and a member of her area's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as a Youth Empowerment Project of Ozark service leader.

"Jade Hayes could play about any position on the court," said David Harris, head coach of Helias High, which lost to Ozark in the Class 4 state tournament. "She's even been a setter when they needed it. When we played her, the thing that impressed me most of all was her defense. Yes, you have to account for her when she's in the front row, but when she's in the back row, where are you going to hit the ball? You can't hit it within 6-8 feet of her. She gets to everything."

Hayes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Two-time winner Hayes joins recent Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Year Alison Landwehr (2008-09, Parkway West) and Allie Huffman (2007-08, Lee's Summit West) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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