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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Jess Herauf of Dickinson High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Herauf is the third Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dickinson 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 Herauf as North Dakota's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Herauf 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 outside hitter recorded 616 digs, 488 kills, 35 service aces and 27 blocks this past season while posting a kill percentage of .280, leading the Midgets (29-11) to sixth place in the Class A state tournament. The Outstanding Senior Athlete of the Year and a three-time All-State selection, Herauf averaged 5.3 digs, 4.2 kills, 0.4 service aces and 0.3 blocks per game. In three Class A state tournament matches, she recorded 58 digs and 52 kills.

Herauf has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and her school's student council, she has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball and basketball instructor, as part of Dickinson High's peer mediation and peer-mentoring programs, and on behalf of her church community.

"She's an explosive volleyball player," said Melissa Wilson, head coach of rival Fargo North High. "She's very strong attacking. You don't typically see her level of ability at the high school level. She's explosive, and she also has a great arm-swing. She's very hard to defend. She's a great back row player also. She's just an all-around player."

Herauf 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.

Herauf joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Angie Waller (2009-10, Fargo North), Jessie Gust (2008-09, West Fargo) and Danielle Luetzen (2007-08, Minot) 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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