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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH 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 Wagner Larson of Roosevelt High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Larson is the fifth Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roosevelt 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 Larson as South Dakota's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Larson 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 6-foot-2 senior middle blocker recorded 376 kills, 83 blocks and 26 service aces this past season while posting a kill percentage of .578, leading the Rough Riders (23-2) to the Class AA state title match. A two-time First Team All-State selection and an Academic All-State honoree, Larson had a school-record hitting percentage of .527 and her 376 kills were the state-high.

Larson has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. A peer and youth mentor, she has volunteered locally at an area homeless shelter and food bank, and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach.

"Wagner Larson is capable of running a lot of quick attacks and higher attacks—that made her so hard to defend," said Renae Cuchpa, head coach of rival O'Gorman High. "It wasn't like she had just one money ball. She developed cross-court down the line. She had a number of shots she could utilize."

Larson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at South Dakota State University 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.

Larson joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Marcelina Glab (2009-10, Watertown), Heather Goehring (2008-09, Roosevelt) and Amber Wollschlager (2007-08, Milbank) 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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