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**LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Crystal Graff of La Follette High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year. Graff is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from La Follette 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 Graff as Wisconsin's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Graff 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-3 senior outside hitter recorded 782 kills, 308 digs, 55 service aces and 53 blocks this past season while posting a .529 kill percentage and leading the Lancers to the Division I quarterfinals. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, Graff was a member of the 2010 USA Volleyball Girls' Youth Olympic Team, chosen as one of the top 12 prep volleyball players in the nation to make the roster.

Graff has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally in association with food and clothing drives for area homeless, and as a teaching assistant and peer tutor.

"Crystal Graff is definitely the best player we played against this year," said Greg Bever, head coach of rival Tomah High. "She has the ability to see the whole court and hit the ball to openings that no other players can."

Graff has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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 Graff joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Players of the Year Carol Henney (2008-09, Catholic Central) and Janelle Gabrielsen (2007-08, Menomonee Falls) 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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