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**GUNTERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALABAMA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2011) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Cati Leak of Guntersville High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year. Leak is the first Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Guntersville 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 Leak as Alabama's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Leak joins an elite alumni association of past state volleyball award winners, including USA Volleyball players 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 outside hitter led the Wildcats to a 74-5 record and a third consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Leak amassed 896 kills, 722 service receptions, 557 digs, 120 assists, 74 service aces and 38 blocks while recording a .532 kill percentage. The three-time Class 4A state tournament Most Valuable Player, Leak recorded 15 kills and 12 digs in a state title game sweep of Alexandria. As a junior in 2010, she totaled 580 kills, 449 digs, 85 assists, 67 service aces and 51 blocks.

Also a basketball and track standout, Leak has maintained a weighted 3.60 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Future Business Leaders of America, she has volunteered on behalf of the Christmas Coalition and the Soles4Souls footwear charity in addition to serving as a mentor to area youth basketball and volleyball athletes.

"Cati Leak is a great player," said Megan McAnelly, head coach of rival Crossville High. "If her team needed a point, she would be the go-to person and would deliver almost every time. I have never seen a volleyball player like her in this area."

Leak has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Louisiana State University beginning in the fall of 2012.

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 ESPNHS 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.

Leak, a two-time winner, joins Chelsea Wintzinger (2009-10, Huntsville) and Catherine Rebarchak (2008-09, St. Paul's Episcopal School) 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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