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**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**XAVIER COLLEGE PREP STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 Bianca Arellano of Xavier College Prep as its 2011-12 Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year. Arellano is the second Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Xavier College Pre..

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 Arellano as Arizona's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Arellano 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 5-foot-9 senior setter led the Gators (42-3) to the Division I semifinals this past season. She recorded 1,294 assists, 197 digs, 143 kills, 89 blocks and 62 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .593. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Arellano is a 2011-12 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Second Team All-American.

Arellano has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as an elementary school mentor and on behalf of the Phoenix Baptist Hospital.

"Bianca Arellano is an awesome setter and a great player," said Valorie McKenzie, head coach of rival Horizon High. "She ran an excellent offense and has a great deal of talent."

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

Arellano joins recent Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Players of the Year Madison Kingdon (2010-11, Sunnyslope High School), Stephanie Preach (2009-10, Xavier College Prep.) and Stephanie Preach (2008-09, Xavier College Prep.) 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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