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**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Shayne Wiedemann of Bentonville High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Wiedemann is the first Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Wiedemann as Arkansas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Wiedemann 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-7 senior outside hitter led the Tigers to a 32-5-2 record and the Class 7A state title this past season. Wiedemann recorded 356 kills, 207 digs and 41 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .455. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a 2011-12 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American, she was named MVP of the Class 7A state tournament.

Wiedemann has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community and her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as a swim instructor, as part of an elementary education literacy outreach initiative and on behalf of an area assisted living facility.

"Shayne Wiedemann is a great athlete," said Amanda Williford, head coach of rival Springdale High. "She has been an unstoppable outside hitter and she is going to be a great asset to any program, not only as a great student but as a teammate as well."

Wiedemann has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Pittsburg State University beginning in the fall of 2012. She will graduate early to begin attending classes on the Pittsburg campus during the upcoming spring semester.

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.

Wiedemann joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Players of the Year Lizzy Briones (2010-11, Siloam Springs High School), Hannah Allison (2009-10, Siloam Springs) and Hannah Allison (2008-09, Siloam Springs) 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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