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**PRESENTATION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Emily Sklar of Presentation High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year. Sklar is the first Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Presentation 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 Sklar as California's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Sklar 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).

A 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter, Sklar led the Panthers to a 41-2 record and the Division II state championship this past season. The returning Player of the Year as named by the San Jose Mercury News, Sklar amassed 584 kills, 487 digs, 61 blocks and 33 service aces while recording a .332 hitting percentage and .412 kill percentage. She totaled 41 service receptions, 22 kills, 12 digs, four blocks and one ace in a 3-1 state title match win against La Costa Canyon, capturing Division II state championship Most Valuable Player honors.

Sklar has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor and peer Spanish tutor, she has volunteered on behalf of Sacred Heart Community Service and the Second Harvest Food Bank, and as a fundraiser for Invisible Children. She completed a two-week service-mission trip to Ecuador in 2009.

"She's the best player I saw all year," said John Gannon, head coach of rival Santa Barbara High. "Her ceiling is crazy high. She's so talented, and she doesn't even know how talented she is yet. She's going to be a star. She's versatile, her passing has improved and offensively she's so dynamic. She's consistent. She's smart. She's strong. And she's only going to get better."

Sklar has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Sklar joins recent Gatorade California Volleyball Players of the Year Krista Vansant (2010-11, Redlands East Valley High School), Rachel Williams (2009-10, Archbishop Mitty) and Lauren Corp (2008-09, Orange Lutheran) 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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