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**WILMINGTON FRIENDS SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2011) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Lauren Kerrigan of Wilmington Friends School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Kerrigan is the first Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilmington Friends 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 Kerrigan as Delaware's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Kerrigan 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 junior setter recorded 602 assists, 213 digs, 101 service aces, 81 kills and 43 blocks this past season, leading the Quakers (16-3) to the state tournament semifinals. A First Team All-State selection, Kerrigan averaged 8.7 assists, 3.1 digs and 1.2 kills per set. She has recorded 1,889 assists, 227 service aces, 172 kills and 113 blocks in her prep volleyball career as a three-year varsity starter.

Kerrigan has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. Co-founder of a student club called Hope for Haiti benefitting earthquake victims, she has also organized a food drive for the needy and has volunteered locally at a camp for diabetic children.

"I've coached a lot of good setters over the years and Lauren Kerrigan is special," said Bob Trinsey, Kerrigan's coach with the Brandywine Volleyball Club. "All these hitters, they all want to play with her because she makes them better players. She has the whole package."

Kerrigan will begin her senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Kerrigan joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Kelly Perillo (2010-11, Charter School of Wilmington), Mariah Henley (2009-10, Ursuline Academy) and Nikki Kinnier (2008-09, Saint Mark's) 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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