

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Emily Wolfert of Yorktown High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year. Wolfert is the first Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Yorktown 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 Wolfert as Indiana's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Wolfert 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 middle blocker, Wolfert led the Tigers to a 38-2 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. A Class 3A First Team All-State selection as named by the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association, she amassed 679 kills, 113 digs, 99 blocks and 47 service aces while recording a .399 hitting percentage and .501 kill percentage. She produced 20 kills, four digs and two service aces in a 3-0 state title game sweep of Bishop Chatard.

Wolfert has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom and serves as a member of both her school's student government and Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter. Also a National Honor Society inductee, she has volunteered as a peer tutor and on behalf of the Kick-Off Mentor Program.

"Wolfert drove the offense," said Wes Lyon, head coach of rival Muncie Central High. "She made it go. She made a lot of other players look good. Developing methodically over the past four years, she exploded this past year into a great player. More importantly, she's a great person. She has such a well-rounded resume. That's something you don't really see in a high school kid."

Wolfert has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Michigan's Hillsdale College 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.

Wolfert joins recent Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Players of the Year Taylor Morey (2010-11, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School), Taylor Unroe (2009-10, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School) and Darcy Dorton (2008-09, Delta) 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.

###