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**TRIPOLI HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Megan Gilbert of Tripoli High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. Gilbert is the third Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tripoli 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 Gilbert as Iowa's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Gilbert 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 6-foot-1 senior middle blocker led the Panthers to a 40-3 record and their fourth consecutive Class 1A state title this past season. Gilbert recorded 584 kills, 273 digs, 101 blocks and 60 service aces. The Iowa Girls Coaches Association Player of the Year, she is a four-time First Team All-State selection and a 2011-12 Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American.

Gilbert has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and her school's chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and her church's Sunday School program.

"She's just an outstanding volleyball player," said Janesville High Head Coach Shelly Sorensen. "She's very hard to stop in the front row, and she also plays good defense and can hit out of the back row."

Gilbert has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at St. Louis 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.

Gilbert joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Ali Stark (2010-11, Mt. Vernon High School), Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford) and Chelsey Semprini (2008-09, Ankeny) 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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