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**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Katie George of Assumption High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. George is the tenth Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 George as Kentucky's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, George 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-10 senior setter and outside hitter led the Rockets to a 43-1 record, the state title and a No. 3 national ranking in the ESPNHS Fab 50 this past season. George recorded 683 assists, 197 digs, 114 kills and 75 service aces, and was selected as a 2011-12 Under Armour Second Team All-American. She was also voted Miss Kentucky Volleyball and was named MVP of the Durango Fall Classic.

George has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. President of her school's senior class, she has volunteered locally assisting the elderly at a retirement community and aiding the physically challenged at an adult care center.

"Katie George is a leader on and off the court and a true competitor," said ESPNHS Volleyball Editor Kirstin Olsen. "She passes and hits some rotations, and sets in other rotations. She is the core of her team and can contribute in every way."

George has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

George joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Jeni Houser (2010-11, Assumption High School), Deja McClendon (2009-10, duPont Manual) and Casey Garvey (2008-09, Mercy Academy) 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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