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**ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Alyssa Jensen of St. Joseph's Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year. Jensen is the first Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph's Academy.

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 Jensen as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Jensen 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-11 junior setter recorded 783 assists, 182 digs, 49 kills, 37 blocks and 33 service aces this past season, leading the Angels (24-9) to the Class 4, District 3 semifinals. A two-time Class 4 First Team All-State selection, Jensen was also a 2010 PrepVolleyball.com All-American when she set a school record with 989 assists.

Jensen has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at the Shriners Hospital for Children, as a youth volleyball coach and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit pancreatic cancer research.

"Alyssa is a talented athletic setter," said Kirstin Olsen of ESPNHS Volleyball. "She is a fiery competitor who grovels for every ball and has good court sense. St. Joseph's is in good hands with her next season."

Jensen has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of California beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Jensen joins recent Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Year Jade Hayes (2010-11, Ozark High School), Jade Hayes (2009-10, Ozark) and Alison Landwehr (2008-09, Parkway West) 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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