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**HELENA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MONTANA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2011) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Kyndal Williams of Helena High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Williams is the third Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Helena 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 Williams as Montana's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Williams 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-8 senior setter led the Bengals to a 29-4 record and their second straight Class AA state title this past season. Williams recorded 1,037 assists, 253 digs, 99 kills, 72 service aces and 45 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .398. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she distributed 145 assists in three state tournament matches, including 51 in a five-set win over Billings in the state final.

Williams has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. A Helena High freshman orientation leader and an accomplished vocalist with the school choir, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

"Kyndal Williams is one of the best competitors I have ever seen," said Hollee Goody, head coach of rival Capital High. "She is not only an exceptional athlete, she also has the skill necessary to be better at the setter position. The way she runs a team is amazing. She knows the players' strengths and weaknesses and what needs to be done to win."

Williams remains undecided upon a college destination.

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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Monica Grimsrud (2010-11, Helena High School), Kelsey Williams (2009-10, Helena) and Emily Carroll (2008-09, Billings Senior) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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