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**ELWOOD-JOHN H. GLENN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Melissa Rigo of Elwood-John H. Glenn High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year. Rigo is the first Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Elwood-John H. Glenn 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 Rigo as New York's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Rigo 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 outside hitter led the Spiders to a 23-2 record and the Class B state title this past season. Rigo recorded 355 kills, 314 digs, 45 blocks and 37 service aces. MVP of the Class B State Tournament, she is also the Long Island Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Rigo has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and youth volleyball programs, and has raised funds to benefit the American Cancer Society.

"Melissa Rigo is the best all-around player that Long Island has had in a long time," said Kathy McGeehan, head coach of rival East Hampton High. "Besides tremendous offensive ability, she also has outstanding defense. She's very well-rounded and versatile."

Rigo has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Stony Brook 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.

Rigo joins recent Gatorade New York Volleyball Players of the Year Heather Feldman (2010-11, Eden High School), Mary Cushman (2009-10, West Irondequoit) and Mary Cushman (2008-09, West Irondequoit) 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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