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**ARCHBISHOP ALTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Courtney of Archbishop Alter High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Player of the Year. Courtney is the first Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Alter 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 Courtney as Ohio's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Courtney 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-2 senior setter and outside hitter recorded 451 kills, 426 assists, 316 digs, 52 blocks and 36 service aces this past season while posting a kill percentage of .603 and leading the Knights (20-10) to the Division II state final. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Courtney is a 2011-12 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-American.

Courtney has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in her church community, where she is a Eucharistic minister, she is a member of her school's Spanish Club and has volunteered locally as a Catholic Youth Organization volleyball coach.

"Megan Courtney is a fabulous player," said Tracey Korneau, head coach of rival Lakota West High. "She is heads and shoulders above any players I have seen this year."

Courtney has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Penn State 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.

Courtney joins recent Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Players of the Year Deme Morales (2010-11, Steele High School), Dani Reinert (2009-10, Ursuline Academy) and Lauren Whyte (2008-09, Olmsted Falls) 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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