

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**BISHOP KELLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Inky Ajanaku of Bishop Kelley High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year. Ajanaku is the fourth Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Kelley 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 Ajanaku as Oklahoma's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Ajanaku 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-4 senior middle blocker led the Comets to a 32-3 record and the Class 6A state title this past season. Ajanaku recorded 537 kills, 127 blocks and 29 digs while posting a kill percentage of .634. The 2011 Class 6A State Tournament MVP and a 2011-12 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-American, she also helped Bishop Kelley to Class 5A state titles from 2008 to 2010.

Ajanaku has maintained a 4.17 weighted GPA in the classroom within a curriculum of predominantly advanced-placement courses. She has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Inky Ajanaku is most definitely a standout player," said Kody Engle, head coach of rival Jenks High. "She puts up one of the biggest blocks of anyone I have coached against. That, coupled with her versatility in attack, makes her a very dynamic player."

Ajanaku has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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.

Ajanaku joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Players of the Year Micha Hancock (2010-11, Edmond Memorial High School), Micha Hancock (2009-10, Edmond Memorial) and Amy Lewis (2008-09, Bishop Kelley) 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).

###