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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS AREA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Alexa Swann of Brandywine Heights Area High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year. Swann is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Brandywine Heights Area 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 Swann as Pennsylvania's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Swann 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 middle blocker led the Bullets (20-4) to the Class AA state title this past season. Swann recorded 889 kills, 178 blocks, 92 digs and 68 service aces. The Class AA State Tournament MVP, she was a First Team All-State selection and the Berks County Player of the Year each of the last two seasons.

Swann has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has donated her time visiting residents at an area nursing home, volunteering with local youth volleyball programs and fundraising to benefit cancer research.

"We did everything we could to try and stop her this year and she would just find ways to get the ball down," said Rick Fidler, head coach of rival Berks Catholic High. "She's the best offensive player to come out of our league, ever."

Swann has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Swann joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Players of the Year Shelbey Manthorpe (2010-11, Merion Mercy Academy), Kate Begor (2009-10, Mt. Lebanon) and Danielle Carrozza (2008-09, Merion Mercy Academy) 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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