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**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Erin Radke of Lincoln High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Radke is the first Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Radke as South Dakota's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Radke 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 senior right-side player led the Patriots to a 24-4 record and the Class AA state title this past season. Radke recorded 430 kills, 141 digs, 56 blocks, 48 assists and 32 service aces while posting a hitting percentage of .397 and a kill percentage of .522. A two-time Class AA First Team All-State selection, Radke recorded 26 kills and eight digs to rally Lincoln from an 0-2 deficit to beat Roosevelt for the state title. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,095 kills.

Radke has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Lincoln High concert choir and the Latin Club, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Erin Radke is the best player in our state," said Shelly Wolfe, head coach of Rapid City Central High. "When I watched her play in the state championship match, I was in awe. She took her team and raised them up to greatness."

Radke has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Radke joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Wagner Larson (2010-11, Roosevelt High School), Marcelina Glab (2009-10, Watertown) and Heather Goehring (2008-09, Roosevelt) 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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