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**SNOW CANYON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Ciara Parker of Snow Canyon High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year. Parker is the first Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Snow Canyon 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 Parker as Utah's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Parker 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-6 senior setter recorded 654 assists, 276 digs, 127 kills, 70 service aces and 47 blocks this past season while leading the Warriors (26-4) to the Class 3A state final. The state record-holder for career assists, Parker was named the Class 3A Player of the Year by the Salt Lake Tribune. She is a three-time Deseret News Class 4A Player of the Year and earned State Tournament MVP honors as a sophomore and junior.

Parker has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and as a mentor for incoming students at Canyon.

"Parker is that rare type of player who can not only be unstoppable and score on her own, but who absolutely makes everyone around her a better player," said Shane Jones, head coach of rival Sky View High. "She's a great setter and defender, and brings an attitude that all of us coaches would love to have on our team."

Parker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Parker joins recent Gatorade Utah Volleyball Players of the Year Ashley Garfield (2010-11, Morgan High School), Danica Mendivil (2009-10, Pleasant Grove) and Brooke McAlister (2008-09, Pleasant Grove) 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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