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**THE MADEIRA SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Breanna Atkinson of The Madeira School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Atkinson is the first Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from The Madeira 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 Atkinson as Virginia's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Atkinson 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 outside hitter led the Snails to a 29-2 record and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division I state title this past season. Atkinson recorded 458 kills, 257 digs, 86 service aces and 36 blocks while posting a hitting percentage of .520 and a kill percentage of .622. The 2011 VISAA Division I Player of the Year, she is also an American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-American selection.

Atkinson has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally for the Special Olympics, as a youth volleyball coach, and she completed an internship in the Capitol Hill office of Rep. Sam Farr (D-Calif.) in 2010.

"Bre is truly unbelievable," said Liz Hall, head coach of Maret School. "Her ability to hang in the air, see what is open and then pound the ball is just plain fun to watch. She is one of the best high school players I have seen in the 23 years I have been coaching in this area."

Atkinson has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Duke 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.

Atkinson joins recent Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Tori Janowski (2010-11, Flint Hill School), Juliane Hanna (2009-10, Loudoun County) and Kristin Carpenter (2008-09, Hanover) 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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