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**BURLINGTON-EDISON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Katlyn Mataya of Burlington-Edison High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year. Mataya is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Burlington-Edison 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 Mataya as Washington's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Mataya 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-5 senior setter led the Tigers to a 31-0-2 record and the Class 2A state title this past season. Mataya recorded 884 assists, 136 digs, 73 service aces, 46 kills and 40 blocks while posting a hitting percentage of .469. A three-time Northwest Conference MVP, Mataya was also the 2011 Skagit Valley Herald Player of the Year just five months after earning Player of the Year honors from the paper for Track & Field. She concluded her prep volleyball career with school records in assists (3,242) and service aces (243).

Mataya has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and youth volleyball coach. She's also donated her time to a fundraising campaign to benefit Skagit Valley Hospital as well as a literacy-outreach program.

"Katlyn Mataya is so determined and athletic and such a leader," said Katie Zukowski, head coach of Black Hills High. "She has that pizzazz, that pop, that leadership that makes her who she is. She's one of the best setters I've ever seen."

Mataya remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Mataya joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Rachel Roeder (2010-11, Issaquah High School), Alexis Olgard (2009-10, Mead) and Kylin Munoz (2008-09, Monroe) 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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