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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**MUSSELMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Taylor Allen of Musselman High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Allen is the second Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Musselman 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 Allen as West Virginia's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Allen 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-10 senior outside hitter recorded 472 kills, 322 digs, 86 service aces and 16 blocks this past season, leading the Applemen (39-9-1) to the Group AAA state final. The 2011 West Virginia Sports Writers Association Player of the Year, Allen is a three-time Group AAA First Team All-State selection and a three-time Player of the Year for the (Martinsburg) Journal.

Allen has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Musselman High student council and her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered in her area as part of American Red Cross blood-donation drives and the Relay for Life.

"Taylor Allen was fun to watch play," said Mary Slider, head coach of Frankfort High. "She was always a threat. She made whatever she got set—she took it and turned it into something, no matter what it was. She was like that core player on the floor. The other players could feel her confidence around them."

Allen 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.

Allen joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Bailey (2010-11, Spring Valley High School), Lexy Kessel (2009-10, Ripley) and Erica Manor (2008-09, Musselman) 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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