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recognizing excellence in high school athletics*

Martin County's Walch Named 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Volleyball

Gainesville (Dec. 15) --- Martin County senior middle hitter Elise Walch was named the 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Volleyball following a final round of voting by a statewide panel of high school volleyball coaches and media representatives.

Walch is the 18th winner of the annual award sponsored by Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association to honor the top high school girls' volleyball player for the 2009 season.

Walch finished the 2009 season with 547 kills and added 58 digs, 151 blocks and 29 aces, helping her team to a 31-1 record on its way to capturing the Class 5A state title. In her career at Martin County, she finished with a school record 1,244 kills plus 225 blocks and most kills in a match (32). Walch was named an AVCA first-team All-America in 2009 and named 2nd team All-State in 2008. She plans on attending the University of Wisconsin next fall.

Walch, who was earlier named the 5A Player-of-the-Year, earned nine first-place votes and a total of 119 points to finish ahead of 6A Player-of-the-Year Maddie Martin of Tampa Plant, who finished with 101 points. Class 4A Player-of-the-Year Sarah Wickstrom of Jensen Beach finished third with 72 points, followed by 3A Player-of-the-Year Jordan Burgess of Tampa Berkeley Preparatory (51), 2A Player-of-the-Year Kelly Merideth of Orlando First Academy (43) and 1A Player-of-the-Year Amber Wyborny of Daytona Warner Christian (23).

The Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards program exemplifies Dairy Farmers, Inc.'s commitment to the state's youth. While honoring the state's top athletes and coaches in all 26 FHSSA-sanctioned sports for the 18th consecutive year, the program also emphasizes to young people the importance of keeping dairy products a primary part of their diet in their overall nutrition plan.

2009 Final Voting

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Elise Walch	9	3	0	2	1	0	119
Maddie Martin	5	3	5	1	1	0	101
Sarah Wickstrom	1	4	3	5	2	0	72
Jordan Burgess	0	1	3	8	2	1	51
Kelly Merideth	0	1	2	2	10	0	43
Amber Wyborny	0	0	0	2	4	9	23

Point totals based on: 1st place (10), 2nd place (7), 3rd place (5), 4th place (3), 5th place (2) and 6th place (1).

Past Winners:

2008 – Jessica Yingling, Orlando Timber Creek

2007 – Kellie Catanach, Tampa Plant

2006 – Ruthie King, Winter Park Lake Howell

2005 – Janet Okagbaa, Tampa Berkeley Preparatory

2004 – Foluke Akinradewo, Ft. Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas

2003 – Michelle Staulbaum, Gainesville

2002 – Marcie Hampton, Gainesville P.K. Yonge

2001 – Julia Caner, Boca Raton Olympic Heights

2000 – Taylor Williams, Gainesville

1999 - Delavane Diaz, Tampa Berkeley Preparatory

1998 – Kristen Blatt, Venice

1997 – Lauren Westervelt, Boca Raton Olympic Heights

1996 – Jennifer Werrick, Lakeland George Jenkins

1995 – Sandra Reboucas, Orlando Cypress Creek

1994 – Jamie Velentzas, Ft. Lauderdale Cardinal Gibbons

1993 – Coleen Crocco, Ft. Lauderdale Cardinal Gibbons

1992 – Kelly Flannigan, Tampa Berkeley Preparatory