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**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2012) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Leah Swiss of Dimond High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year. Swiss is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 field, distinguishes Swiss as Alaska's best high school volleyball player. Swiss joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 junior outside hitter led the Lynx to a 22-2 record and the Class 4A state title this past season. Swiss recorded 395 digs, 337 kills, 61 service aces and 23 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .426. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, she was named MVP of the state tournament after slamming 29 kills in the state final against South Anchorage.

Swiss has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, at a nursing home and as a youth volleyball coach.

"What impresses me most about Leah Swiss is that she is a true team player and she doesn't hesitate to own up to her own mistakes," said Brian Stenehjem, head coach at Service High. "She is exciting to watch and she is able to raise her teammates' level of play with her leadership."

Swiss will begin her senior year of high school next fall.

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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Swiss joins recent Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Morgan Hooe (2011-12, South Anchorage High School), Deanna Nielson (2010-11, Dimond High School), Taylor Adams (2009-10, Dimond), Lauren Fulton (2008-09, Dimond) and Sarah Hibbert (2007-08, South Anchorage) 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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