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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**VERITAS PREPARATORY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 Sarah Sponcil of Veritas Preparatory Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year. Sponcil is the first Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Veritas Preparatory Academy.

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 Sponcil as Arizona's best high school volleyball player. Sponcil 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 5-foot-10 junior setter and outside hitter led the Falcons to a 28-4 record and the Division V state title this past season. Sponcil recorded 530 assists, 438 kills, 2220 digs, 69 service aces and 39 blocks while posting a .570 kill percentage. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she collected 25 assists, 18 digs and 15 kills in the state final against Valley Lutheran High.

Sponcil has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Sarah Sponcil is the best player I've seen in my 11 years of coaching," said Brad Bode, head coach at Arizona Lutheran Academy. "She is also the smartest player I've seen and she is able to elevate everyone else's play around her. She gets the ball to whomever she needs to get it to. She could start for any team in the state.

Sponcil 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.

Sponcil joins recent Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Players of the Year Bianca Arellano (2011-12, Xavier College Prep.), Madison Kingdon (2010-11, Sunnyslope High School), Stephanie Preach (2009-10 & 2008-09, Xavier College Prep.), and Cat Highmark (2007-08, Chaparral) 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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