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**REDONDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Skylar Dykstra of Redondo Union High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year. Dykstra is the first Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Redondo Union 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 Dykstra as California's best high school volleyball player. Dykstra 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 senior outside hitter amassed 456 digs, 403 kills, 63 blocks and 54 service aces this past season, leading the Sea Hawks (37-5) to the Division I state semifinals. An Under Armour First Team All-America selection as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, Dykstra compiled a .295 hitting percentage and .410 kill percentage. In seven Division I postseason matches, she totaled 114 kills and 96 digs. Dykstra and current University of Michigan freshman Tiffany Morales captured the gold medal at the 2010 AAU Junior National Beach Volleyball Championships.

Dykstra has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered extensively as a volleyball instructor on behalf of her club volleyball team's Shack Sisters Program.

"She does it all on the floor," said Aaron Dyer, head coach of rival Palos Verdes Peninsula High. "As a player, she covers the entire court as a passer and defender, and her hitting is a threat from anywhere on the court. Her leadership is what really sets her apart. Her team seems to follow her lead on and off the court. Her leadership took a team of pretty good players and made them a great team."

Dykstra has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at UCLA beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Dykstra joins recent Gatorade California Volleyball Players of the Year Emily Sklar (2011-12, Presentation High School), Krista Vansant (2010-11, Redlands East Valley High School), Rachel Williams (2009-10, Archbishop Mitty), Lauren Corp (2008-09, Archbishop Mitty) and Tarah Murrey (2007-08, Saint Mary's) 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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