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**DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Haleigh Washington of Doherty High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year. Washington is the first Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Doherty 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 Washington as Colorado's best high school volleyball player. Washington 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-4 junior middle blocker led the Spartans (29-0) to the Class 5A state championship this past season. A member of the USA Volleyball Women's Indoor Junior National Team, Washington recorded 346 kills while compiling a .550 hitting percentage and .638 kill percentage. She also collected 101 blocks and 36 digs. Washington totaled 15 kills, two blocks and two assists in a Class 5A state title sweep of Grandview, capturing tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Washington has maintained a 4.04 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of her church's youth group, an area food bank, Young Life and her local library.

"We haven't seen a middle like her in Colorado in many years," said Rob Graham, head coach of rival Ponderosa High. "Her complete physical dominance at the net with both hitting and blocking separates her. Typically, middles don't get that sort of attention when it comes to the 'best' player, but she was darn good this year. She dominated in the front row."

Washington 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.

Washington joins recent Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year Nicole Dalton (2011-12 & 2010-11, Chaparral High School), Morgan Broekhuis (2009-10 & 2008-09, Colorado Springs Christian), and Lauren Van Orden (2007-08, Grandview) 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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