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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Becca Bateman of St. John's College High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year. Bateman is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Bateman as District of Columbia's best high school volleyball player. Bateman 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-7 junior setter recorded 602 assists, 82 service aces, 81 kills and 77 digs this past season while posting a kill percentage of .692 and leading the Cadets (20-9) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference semifinals. A two-time First Team All-Conference selection, Bateman became her school's career assists leader with 1,819 entering her senior campaign.

Bateman has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has served as president of her school's chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions.

"Becca Bateman is both a strong leader and the clear leader on a relatively young St. John's squad," said Dave Geiser, head coach at the Academy of the Holy Cross. "She was certainly the core of their offense and their best server. She is a very positive person who exhibits great sportsmanship to all players, coaches and referees."

Bateman 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.

Bateman joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Players of the Year Darian Dozier (2011-12, St. John's College High School), Isabel Eberstadt (2010-11, National Cathedral School), Jessie Egan (2009-10, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Carolyn Bottelier (2008-09, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School) and Kelley Vershbow (2007-08, Maret School) 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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