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**WHITEWATER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® GEORGIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2012) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Teegan Van Gunst of Whitewater High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Georgia Volleyball Player of the Year. Van Gunst is the first Gatorade Georgia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Whitewater 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 Van Gunst as Georgia's best high school volleyball player. Van Gunst 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 senior outside hitter led the Wildcats (53-3) to the Class AAAAA state championship this past season. An Under Armour Second Team All-America selection as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, Van Gunst amassed 504 kills, 406 digs, 72 blocks, 66 service aces and 33 assists, compiling a .413 hitting percentage. She recorded 19 kills, three blocks and three service aces in a 3-1 Class AAAAA state title victory against McIntosh.

Also a soccer standout and accomplished trombonist, Van Gunst has maintained a 4.17 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the National Honor Society and the German Honor Society, she has volunteered extensively on behalf of Impact Youth Ministries and her church, including Vacation Bible School, feeding needy families on Thanksgiving and a service-mission trip to Arizona.

"She is a beast—one of the best all-around players I have seen in Georgia in my 19 years here with volleyball," said Tonya Kern-Honea, head coach of rival Kennesaw Mountain High. "We played against her and I also got to see her several times throughout the season. She's extremely dominant. She sees the court very well, picks on team's weaknesses, communicates well and takes charge."

Van Gunst has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Georgia Tech 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.

Van Gunst joins recent Gatorade Georgia Volleyball Players of the Year Mary Hannah Arrington (2011-12, Pope High School), Kelly Murphy (2010-11, Walton High School), Mary Hoey (2009-10, Pope), Monique Mead (2008-09, Pope) and Betsy Smith (2007-08, Wesleyan 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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