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**FRUITLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Sadie Stutzman of Fruitland High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year. Stutzman is the first Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fruitland 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 Stutzman as Idaho's best high school volleyball player. Stutzman 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-2 senior middle led the Grizzlies (34-6) to the Class 3A state championship this past season. Stutzman amassed 612 kills, 135 digs, 127 blocks, 74 service aces and 24 assists in 2012. In four Class 3A state tournament matches, she recorded 86 kills, 31 digs and 27 blocks, including 20 kills and four blocks in the state title game sweep of Priest River. She led Club Idaho to a 2012 Amateur Athletic Union Girls' Junior National Championships berth last summer.

Also a basketball and tennis standout, Stutzman has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society and recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership scholarship, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Red Cross, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Love INC, her church, nursing homes and community-cleanup efforts. Stutzman has also donated her time as a youth volleyball and tennis instructor.

"We played them in our tournament, and I was very impressed," said Chantal McMurtrey, head coach of Bonneville High. "She's a big kid. She's so mobile, and she really was their star. They had a really young team, a lot of sophomores, and she had them playing at such a high level. She's really quick, mobile and could hit anywhere on the net. She was a key passer. She's definitely a very, very nice player."

Stutzman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at UNLV 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.

Stutzman joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Jenna Ellis (2011-12, Century High School), Megan Sorenson (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), Morgan Odale (2009-10 & 2008-09, Eagle), and Brittany Hewitt (2007-08, Eagle) 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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