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**NEW CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Lauryn Gillis of New Castle High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year. Gillis is the second Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from New Castle 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 Gillis as Indiana's best high school volleyball player. Gillis 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-1 junior outside hitter amassed 583 kills, 259 digs, 64 blocks, 64 assists and 25 service aces this past season, leading the Trojans (33-3) to a berth in the Class 4A state tournament. A two-time Class 4A First Team All-State selection as named by the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association, Gillis compiled a .450 hitting percentage. In three Class 4A postseason matches, she averaged 7.1 kills, 2.8 digs, 1.2 blocks and one assist per set. Gillis earned All-American honors at the Amateur Athletic Union Girls' Junior National Volleyball Championships each of the past two summers.

Gillis has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom and serves on her school's student government and student athletic advisory committee. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's youth group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the National Honor Society and an autism-awareness campaign.

"Lauryn Gillis is all the hype people say she is," said Lesli Randall, head coach of rival Anderson High. "She is a player that you always need to know where she's at. Even in the back row, her defense covers a large range and her attack rate does not go down just because she can't jump in front of the 10-foot line. She is a powerful hitter that is smart in her placements and ability to mix up her shots."

Gillis 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.

Gillis joins recent Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Players of the Year Emily Wolfert (2011-12, Yorktown High School), Taylor Morey (2010-11, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School), Taylor Unroe (2009-10, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School), Darcy Dorton (2008-09, Muncie Burriss Laboratory School) and Caitlin Cox (2007-08, New Castle Chrysler) 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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