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**GARDNER-EDGERTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Cassie Wait of Gardner-Edgerton High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Wait is the first Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gardner-Edgerton 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 Wait as Kansas' best high school volleyball player. Wait 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-8 senior outside hitter recorded 526 kills, 512 digs, 54 service aces and 28 blocks this past season while posting a kill percentage of .473 and leading the Blazers (37-8) to the Class 6A semifinals. The 2012 Class 6A Kansas Volleyball Association Player of the Year and a 2012-13 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-American, Wait is a three-time First Team All-State selection.

Wait has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Cassie Wait is a fantastic player and a great kid as well," said Dave Johnson, head coach at Blue Valley High. "She is a terrific front row and back row presence and she is the reason her high school team was so successful."

Wait has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kansas 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.

Wait joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Paige Brown (2011-12, St. James Academy), Hanna Forst (2010-11, St. James Academy), Chelsea Cook (2009-10, Blue Valley North), Caitlyn Donahue (2008-09, Blue Valley North) and Kathleen Ludwig (2007-08, Bishop Miege) 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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