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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**MERCY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Courtney Crable of Mercy Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. Crable is the second Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mercy Academy.

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 Crable as Kentucky's best high school volleyball player. Crable 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 recorded 635 kills, 352 digs, 96 service aces and 88 blocks this past season, leading the Jaguars (33-10) to the state final. Crable is a two-time First Team All-State selection and was named Region 6 Player of the Year.

Crable has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and youth sports programs.

"Crable was outstanding this year," said Eric Garvey, head coach at Sacred Heart Academy. "She's more than just a great hitter. She's also an outstanding blocker and she plays all six rotations."

Crable 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.

Crable joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Katie George (2011-12, Assumption High School), Jeni Houser (2010-11, Assumption High School), Deja McClendon (2009-10, duPont Manual), Casey Garvey (2008-09, duPont Manual) and Kaitlynn James (2007-08, Assumption) 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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