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**BIDDEFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Mariah Hebert of Biddeford High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year. Hebert is the first Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Biddeford 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 Hebert as Maine's best high school volleyball player. Hebert 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-7 senior setter amassed 350 assists, 56 digs, 48 service aces, 25 kills and 12 blocks this past season, leading the Tigers (16-1) to the Class A state championship match. Also the Player of the Year as named by the Maine Sunday Telegram and Journal Tribune, Hebert compiled an .800 kill percentage. In three playoff matches, Hebert averaged 7.5 assists, 1.6 digs, 1.3 kills and 1.3 service aces per set before suffering a concussion midway through a 3-1 Class A state championship loss to Greely.

Hebert has maintained a 4.95 weighted GPA in the classroom and serves on her school's homecoming committee. In addition to donating her time to Biddeford's peer mentorship program, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, the United Way, the Biddeford Recreation Department, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Rotary International's Interact club, a community Thanksgiving fundraiser, a breast cancer awareness campaign and a charity bottle drive.

"She had the best hands I've seen in a high school player," said Todd Brophy, head coach of rival Mt. Desert Island High. "She made excellent decisions setting and mixed up her sets really well. The quality of her ball was probably the best in the state, as far as unbelievable consistency. She dominated the All-Star Showcase and won MVP between her setting and serving. She really stood out."

Hebert remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hebert joins recent Gatorade Maine Volleyball Players of the Year Brittany Bona (2011-12, Scarborough High School), Keila Grigware (2010-11, Biddeford High School), Michaela Campbell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Greely), and Mariah Grover (2007-08, Mount Desert Island) 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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