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**FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Cassidy Stankowski of Frontier Regional School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year. Stankowski is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Frontier Regional 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 Stankowski as Massachusetts' best high school volleyball player. Stankowski 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 state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior outside hitter led the Red Hawks to a 23-1 record and a third straight Division 3 state title this past season. Stankowski recorded 185 kills, 127 digs, 21 service aces and 13 blocks while posting a hitting percentage of .469. A four-time Division 3 First Team All-State selection and a 2012 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American, Stankowski recorded 17 kills and 14 digs in a state final win over Lynnfield High. She concluded her six-year prep volleyball career with 1,483 kills, 1,151 digs and 364 service aces.

Stankowski has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank, as a peer mentor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church.

"Cassidy can do it all: pass, dig, hit, block, serve, and her coach has even had her set to rest her at times and she is well capable," said Roger Anderson, head coach at Westborough High. "Her speed, ball control and intangibles make her the top in my book."

Stankowski has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Central Connecticut State University beginning 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.

Stankowski joins Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Players of the Year Maura Manley (2010-11, New Bedford High School), Morgan Thatcher (2009-10, Brockton), Caitlin Barrett (2008-09, Brockton) and Mina Baban (2007-08, Westborough) 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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