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**DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Carli Snyder of Dakota High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year. Snyder is the first Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dakota 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 Snyder as Michigan's best high school volleyball player. Snyder 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 led the Cougars to a 59-5 record and the Class A state title this past season. Snyder recorded 929 kills, 661 digs, 184 service aces and 56 blocks while posting a .496 kill percentage and a .408 hitting percentage. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Snyder was named MVP of the 2012 U.S. Girls Youth National Volleyball Team.

Snyder has maintained a B average in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter in addition to donating her time as an elementary school student mentor and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Carli Snyder is an excellent volleyball player," said Jim Fish, head coach at North Branch High. "She played outstanding in the state tournament and is probably the most dynamic player in the state."

Snyder has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Florida beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Snyder joins recent Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Players of the Year Maddy Doyle (2011-12, Mercy High School), Alex Lovell (2010-11, Marian), Rachel Charles (2009-10, Marian), Megan Hendrickson (2008-09, Marian) and Molly Coldren (2007-08, Notre Dame Preparatory School) 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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