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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**LONG BEACH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Breann Hedin of Long Beach High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year. Hedin is the first Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Long Beach 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 Hedin as Mississippi's best high school volleyball player. Hedin 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 senior middle blocker recorded 430 kills, 172 digs, 144 blocks and 71 service aces this past season, leading the Bearcats (27-11) to the Class II state final. Hedin was named to the Class II All-State Tournament team.

Hedin has maintained 3.55 GPA in the classroom. Also a soccer standout, she has served as a peer tutor and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs.

"Hedin is a freak of nature," said David Irwin, head coach at Hancock High. "She's so athletic. If you set the ball anywhere near her, she can hit it."

Hedin has verbally committed to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi 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.

Hedin joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Players of the Year Sarah Farmer (2011-12, Tupelo High School), Victoria Nutting (2010-11, Hancock High School), Alison Welch (2009-10, Olive Branch), Charquita Anderson (2008-09, Olive Branch) and Claire Franks (2007-08, Olive Branch) 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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