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**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Jace Henderson of Billings Senior High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Henderson is the fourth Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Henderson as Montana's best high school volleyball player. Henderson 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 junior setter led the Broncs to a 32-0 record and the Class AA state title this past season. Henderson recorded 863 assists, 193 digs, 89 kills, 87 blocks and 60 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .441. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she distributed 35 assists in the state final and averaged 34.5 per match in the state tournament.

Henderson has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program, as a volleyball camp counselor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Jace Henderson's defense, blocking, serving and setting capabilities are amazing," said Katherine Sunwall, head coach at C.M. Russell High. "She makes every bad pass into an amazing set and puts up a nice ball for her hitters."

Henderson 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.

Henderson joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Kyndal Williams (2011-12, Helena High School), Monica Grimsrud (2010-11, Helena High School), Kelsey Williams (2009-10, Helena), Emily Carroll (2008-09, Helena) and Ashley Welborn (2007-08, Billings Senior) 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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