

**Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)**

**LA CUEVA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Julia Warren of La Cueva High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Mexico Volleyball Player of the Year. Warren is the first Gatorade New Mexico Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from La Cueva 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 Warren as New Mexico's best high school volleyball player. Warren 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 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter recorded 487 kills, 311 digs, 42 blocks and 38 service aces this past season while posting a hitting percentage of .428 and leading the Bears (20-4) to the Class 5A state final. A 2012 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Second Team All-American, Warren is a three-time Class 5A First Team All-State selection and is rated as the No. 69 prospect in the Class of 2013 by PrepVolleyball.com. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,522 kills and 1,118 digs.

Warren has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with a literacy-outreach program, as a peer mentor to students with special needs and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Young Life youth ministry.

"As a six-rotation player, Julia was a threat to score from the back row and was a primary passer," said Toby Manzanares, head coach at Rio Rancho High. "She is an overall great player."

Warren has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of New Mexico 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.

Warren joins Gatorade New Mexico Volleyball Players of the Year Nathalie Castellanos (2010-11, Gadsden High School), Halie Harton (2009-10, Goddard), Kristin Valencia (2008-09, Goddard) and Kayla Hammond (2007-08, Rio Rancho) 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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