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**BISHOP KELLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Claire Kelley of Bishop Kelley High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year. Kelley is the fourth Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Kelley 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 Kelley as Oklahoma's best high school volleyball player. Kelley 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 5-foot-8 senior setter led the Comets to a 32-4 record and the Class 6A state title this past season. Kelley recorded 947 assists, 168 kills, 98 blocks and 47 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .532. The 2012 Class 6A State Tournament MVP and a 2012-13 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Honorable Mention selection, she distributed 40 assists in the state title-clinching win over Edmond Memorial.

Kelley has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and her school's Native American Club, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Claire Kelley has been a standout since her freshman year, which is quite an accomplishment considering the caliber of team that Bishop Kelley has," said Michelle Smith, head coach at Bentonville High. "She is very level-headed, she controls the speed of the game and never gets frazzled."

Kelley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Kelley joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Players of the Year Inky Ajanaku (2011-12, Bishop Kelley High School), Micha Hancock (2010-11 & 2009-10, Edmond Memorial High School), Amy Lewis (2008-09, Edmond Memorial) and Kelsey Hancock (2007-08, Edmond Memorial) 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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