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**ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Maggie DeJong of Roosevelt High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. DeJong is the sixth Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roosevelt 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 DeJong as South Dakota's best high school volleyball player. DeJong 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 middle blocker led the Rough Riders to a 24-5 record and the Class AA state title this past season. DeJong recorded 374 kills, 315 digs, 107 blocks and 32 service aces while posting a hitting percentage of .433 and a kill percentage of .533. A two-time Class AA First Team All-State selection, she notched 46 kills, 37 digs and 12 blocks in the Class AA state tournament, earning a spot on the All-Tournament team.

DeJong has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. A student ambassador at Roosevelt High, she has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and by helping to make blankets for cancer patients. She has also donated her time as part of a service-mission trip to New Orleans.

"Maggie was our go-to hitter this year and made huge improvements in her passing," said Roosevelt High head coach Holly Lynch. "This is the first year she has been able to play all the way around, and not very often at the high school level does a middle hitter play the back row at the caliber she possesses."

DeJong 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.

DeJong joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Erin Radke (2011-12, Lincoln High School), Wagner Larson (2010-11, Roosevelt High School), Marcelina Glab (2009-10, Watertown), Heather Goehring (2008-09, Watertown) and Amber Wollschlager (2007-08, Milbank) 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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