

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Chiaka Ogbogu of Coppell High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year. Ogbogu is the first Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coppell 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 Ogbogu as Texas' best high school volleyball player. Ogbogu 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-2 senior middle blocker led the Cowgirls to a 49-3 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Ogbogu recorded 486 kills and 144 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .555. A 2012-13 Under Armour First Team All-American, Ogbogu was named Class 4A-5A Player of the Year by the Texas Girls Coaches Association and is a member of the LoneStarVolleyball.com All-Texas First Team.

Ogbogu has maintained a B average in the classroom. An active member of her church youth group and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Coppell Community Gardens and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"She's a very talented player," said Tricia Roos, head coach at Ryan High. "She jumps high, makes smart decisions on the front row and blocks extremely well. It's very hard to get around her block."

Ogbogu has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Texas 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.

Ogbogu joins recent Gatorade Texas Volleyball Players of the Year Amy Neal (2011-12, Lake Travis High School), Tiffany Baker (2010-11, Hebron High School), Sara Shaw (2009-10, Westlake), Torri Campbell (2008-09, Westlake) and Brianne Barker (2007-08, Amarillo) 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.

###