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**BELLARMINA PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Courtney Schwan of Bellarmine Preparatory School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year. Schwan is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bellarmine Preparatory 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 Schwan as Washington's best high school volleyball player. Schwan 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 junior outside hitter led the Lions to a 32-3 record and the Class 4A state title this past season. Schwan recorded 488 kills, 281 digs, 95 service aces and 74 blocks while posting a hitting percentage of .454 and a kill percentage of .562. A member of the USA Volleyball Youth National Team, she was the 2012 Class 4A State Player of the Year and State Tournament MVP and is a three-time MVP of the Narrows League.

Schwan has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished pianist, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fife Police Halloween Carnival and Fife City Santa Run in addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Courtney Schwan is developing into a complete player and—yikes—she's only a junior," said Laurie Creighton, head coach of Olympia High. "This year she rounded out her offensive game with even better court vision and a toolbox full of shots. And her defense and serve-receive are catching up with her offense, too."

Schwan has verbally committed to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Schwan joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Katlyn Mataya (2011-12, Burlington-Edison High School), Rachel Roeder (2010-11, Issaquah High School), Alexis Olgard (2009-10, Mead), Kylin Munoz (2008-09, Mead) and Brittany Quick (2007-08, Hanford) 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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