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**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Leah Swiss of Dimond High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year. Swiss is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Swiss as Alaska's best high school volleyball player. Swiss 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 senior outside hitter recorded 566 kills, 464 digs, 64 service aces and 61 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .465 and leading the Lynx (37-3) to the Class 4A semifinals this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Swiss is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a 2013-14 Honorable Mention Under Armour All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Swiss has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, at an area nursing home and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Leah Swiss is not only the top hitter in the state but probably the best defensive player the state as well," said Dimond High head coach Kim Lauwers. "She was such a leader on and off the court. Her teammates have so much respect for her because she leads by example. She demands hard work around her, but she will also be the hardest worker on the court."

Swiss has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alaska 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.

Two-time winner Swiss joins Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Morgan Hooe (2011-12, South Anchorage High School), Deanna Nielson (2010-11, Dimond High School), Taylor Adams (2009-10, Dimond), Lauren Fulton (2008-09, Dimond) and Sarah Hibbert (2007-08, South Anchorage) 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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