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**SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARKANSAS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2013) — In its 29<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 Drew Jones of Southside High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Southside 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 Jones as Arkansas's best high school volleyball player. Jones 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-1 senior middle blocker led the Confederettes to a 34-3 record and the Class 7A state title this past season. Jones recorded 388 kills, 151 blocks and 23 service aces while compiling a kill percentage of .431. A three-time First Team All-State selection and the 2013 All-Arkansas Prep Volleyball Player of the Year, she was named MVP of the Class 7A state tournament.

Jones has maintained a 4.09 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, as a math tutor and as a youth basketball and volleyball camp counselor.

"Drew Jones is the real deal and the complete package as a player," said Fort Smith Southside head coach Steve Haaser. "She has a huge presence on the court. She excels defensively and has some very emphatic kills. Her kills are usually followed by plenty of 'oohs' and 'aahs.' She's the type of player that doesn't come along very often."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Arkansas State University 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Players of the Year Aubrey Edie (2012-2013, Fayetteville High School), Shayne Wiedemann (2011-12, Bentonville High School), Lizzy Briones (2010-11, Siloam Springs High School), Hannah Allison (2009-10 & 2008-09, Siloam Springs), and Cayla Fielder (2007-08, Westside) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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