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**RHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Sarah Veilleux of RHAM High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year. Veilleux is the second Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from RHAM 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 Veilleux as Connecticut's best high school volleyball player. Veilleux 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 led the Sachems to a 23-1 record and the Class L state championship this past season. Also the Player of the Year as named by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, Veilleux amassed 453 kills, 314 digs, 184 service receptions, 65 service aces and 20 blocks. She recorded a .584 hitting percentage and .643 kill percentage. In the 3-2 title-clinching victory against Farmington, she totaled 36 kills, 30 service receptions, 28 digs and three blocks, capturing tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Also a basketball standout, Veilleux has maintained a 4.39 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has donated her time as a youth basketball instructor and peer tutor.

"She has outstanding skills and leadership qualities," said George McKinnon, head coach of rival Rocky Hill High. "She is a team player who is well respected by her teammates as well as the coaches and players in the conference. She can play every position on the court. When she hits from the outside, she can hit any spot on the court with ease. She's the best all-around player in the state, without question."

Veilleux has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Saint Joseph's 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.

Veilleux joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Players of the Year Marina Rose (2012-2013, Coventry High School), Kylee Reed (2011-12, Rocky Hill High School), Madison McCaffery (2010-11, Fairfield Ludlowe High School), Tessa Smolinski (2009-10, RHAM), Erika Videtto (2008-09, Greenwich) and Janice Ehorn (2007-08, Amity Regional) 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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