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**ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Abbie Mirabella of St. Mark's High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Mirabella is the fourth Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mark's 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 Mirabella as Delaware's best high school volleyball player. Mirabella 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 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter amassed 427 kills, 184 digs, 159 service receptions and 50 service aces this past season, leading the Spartans (15-4) to the state semifinals. Also the Player of the Year as named by the Delaware Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association, Mirabella averaged 8.4 kills and 2.5 digs per set in three state tournament matches. A three-time All-State selection, she totaled 261 service receptions, 214 kills, 143 digs, 67 service aces and 22 assists as a junior last season.

Mirabella has maintained a 3.93 weighted GPA in the classroom and served as a member of St. Mark's Spartan Strong Committee for outstanding student-athletes. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of her church, Chimes Delaware, the City of Newark and her school's Blue/Gold program to benefit children with intellectual disabilities.

"Mirabella is the most dominant and complete player in the state this year," said Dave Stover, head coach of rival Charter School of Wilmington. "She is a devastating jump-server, an excellent passer on serve-receive and equally strong playing floor defense, a superb blocker, and an unstoppable hitter even when her opponents tried to double- and triple-block her and keyed their entire floor defense on digging her powerful spikes. This year, her offense carried the Spartans to the final four of the state tournament."

Mirabella has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Maryland Baltimore County 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.

Mirabella joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Lauren Kerrigan (2012-2013 & 2011-12, Wilmington Friends School), Kelly Perillo (2010-11, Charter School of Wilmington), Mariah Henley (2009-10, Ursuline Academy), Nikki Kinnier (2008-09, St. Mark's) and Meghan Bonk (2007-08, Ursuline Academy) 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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