

**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Kayla Ellis of Century High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year. Ellis is the third Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Ellis as Idaho's best high school volleyball player. Ellis 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-8 junior outside hitter led the Diamondbacks (45-5) to a fourth consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. Twice named All-Area Player of the Year by the Idaho State Journal, Ellis amassed 647 kills, compiling a .327 hitting percentage and .414 kill percentage, to go along with 559 digs, 488 service receptions, 88 assists, 71 service aces and 39 blocks. In a straight-sets, title-clinching victory against Bonneville, she totaled 51 digs, 46 service receptions, 32 kills and two blocks.

Ellis has maintained a 4.06 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church and Vacation Bible School, as part of coat and canned food drives for the needy and by organizing an Operation Christmas Child Processing Center.

"She's incredible," said Mindy Baldwin, head coach of rival Blackfoot High. "She has so much experience, even as a junior. She's the best all-around player in the state. She passes very well. She hits very well. She just knows the game so well. I've seen her go up to hit the ball, be blocked and maneuver her body to dig the ball before it lands. It's hard to even explain. She really is fun to watch."

Ellis will begin her senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Ellis joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Sadie Stutzman (2012-2013, Fruitland High School), Jenna Ellis (2011-12, Century High School), Megan Sorenson (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), Morgan Odale (2009-10 & 2008-09, Eagle), and Brittany Hewitt (2007-08, Eagle) 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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