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**RICHMOND-BURTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Ali Frantti of Richmond-Burton Community High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year. Frantti is the first Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Richmond-Burton Community 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 Frantti as Illinois's best high school volleyball player. Frantti 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-2 senior outside hitter recorded 603 kills, 270 digs, 99 service aces and 84 blocks this past season while posting a kill percentage of .540 and leading the Lady Rockets (23-14) to the Class 3A regional semifinals. A 2013-14 American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team Under Armour All-American, Frantti is a two-time First Team All-State selection and is ranked No. 2 nationally in the Class of 2014 by PrepVolleyball.com.

Frantti has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. She has served as a member of her school's student council and volunteered locally on behalf of an area food pantry and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Ali Frantti has the ability to change the course of any given match," said Lisa Reddish, head coach at Crystal Lake Central High. "She has always had that ability, but she is also an awesome teammate who plays for the love of the game."

Frantti has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Penn 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.

Frantti joins recent Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Players of the Year Lauren Carlini (2012-2013, West Aurora High School), Alexis Viliunas (2011-12, Lyons Township High School), Kelly Lamberti (2010-11, Cary-Grove High School), Annemarie Hickey (2009-10, Joliet Catholic Academy), Hannah Werth (2008-09, Glenwood) and Kelly Murphy (2007-08, Joliet Catholic 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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