Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

MT. CARMEL ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Katie Kampen of Mt. Carmel Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade Louisiana Volleyball Player of the Year. Kampen is the second Gatorade Louisiana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mt. Carmel Academy.

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 Kampen as Louisiana's best high school volleyball player. Kampen 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 junior outside hitter recorded 598 kills, 478 digs, 85 blocks and 76 service aces while posting a hitting percentage of .400 and a kill percentage of .480 this past season, leading the Cubs (44-4) to the Division I state championship match. A two-time Times-Picayune Large Schools Player of the Year, Kampen is a two-time Division I Player of the Year and was the 2012 Division I Tournament MVP after leading Mt. Carmel to the state title.

Kampen has maintained a weighted 4.68 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a Mount Carmel Academy Student Ambassador and with Habitat for Humanity.

"Katie has a dominance on and off the court that makes her such a great player," said Kacie Mule, head coach of Fontainebleau High. "I had to adjust my whole game plan to stop her, front row and back row. Her control of the game shows in everything she does."

Kampen 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.

Kampen joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Volleyball Players of the Year Katherine Broussard (2012-2013, Metairie Park Country Day School), Haley Bonneval (2011-12, Fontainebleau High School), Katie Lindelow (2010-11, Mandeville High School), Hannah Miranda (2009-10, Northlake Christian School), Kathryn Stock (2008-09, E.D. White Catholic) and Caitlin Clarke (2007-08, Mount Carmel 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.