

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Carli Snyder of Dakota High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year. Snyder is the first Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dakota 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 Snyder as Michigan's best high school volleyball player. Snyder 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-1 senior outside hitter recorded 600 kills, 483 digs, 133 service aces and 34 blocks while compiling a kill percentage of .519 and leading the Cougars (40-9) to the Class A regional semifinals this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Snyder is a four-time First Team All-State selection and a 2013-14 First Team Under Armour All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. She was named MVP of the 2012 U.S. Women's Junior National Team.

Snyder has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an area homeless shelter, as an elementary school mentor and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Carli Snyder is a tremendously talented player," said Stacy Williams, head coach at Romeo High. "She is team-oriented yet extremely competitive. She has been a great role model for all of the surrounding schools in our area."

Snyder has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Two-time winner Snyder joins Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Players of the Year Maddy Doyle (2011-12, Mercy High School), Alex Lovell (2010-11, Marian High School), Rachel Charles (2009-10, Marian), Megan Hendrickson (2008-09, Jenison) and Molly Coldren (2007-08, Notre Dame Preparatory School) 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.

###