

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Taylr McNeil of Eagan High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year. McNeil is the first Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagan 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 McNeil as Minnesota's best high school volleyball player. McNeil 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 led the Wildcats to a 30-2 record and the Class AAA state title this past season. McNeil recorded 563 kills, 337 digs, 56 blocks while compiling a .502 kill percentage. 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 is ranked No. 46 nationally in the Class of 2014 by PrepVolleyball.com.

McNeil has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and at an area hospital with career aspirations of becoming a nurse.

"Taylr McNeil is a terrific volleyball player and a great athlete," said Smoak Vitek, head coach at Rosemount High. "When she was on her game she was difficult to stop. She also consistently demonstrated good leadership on the court."

McNeil has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

McNeil joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year Sarah Wilhite (2012-2013 & 2011-12, Eden Prairie High School), Kellie McNeil (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Ashley Wittman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Shakopee), and Jennifer Lopez (2007-08, DGF) 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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