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**LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Lily Johnson of Lafayette High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year. Johnson is the second Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lafayette 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 Johnson as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. Johnson 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 senior outside hitter led the Lancers to a 38-1-2 record and a third straight Class 4 state title this past season. Johnson recorded 398 kills, 270 digs, 66 service aces and 52 blocks for Lafayette, which has lost only one match in the last two years. A 2013 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Second Team All-American, Johnson is a two-time First Team All-State pick. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 974 kills and 802 digs.

Johnson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A four-year member of the Lafayette High Class Advisory Committee, she has volunteered locally as a peer math tutor and as a youth volleyball coach and referee.

"Lily Johnson has been the best offensive player in the state for the last two years," said Jared Kreienkamp, head coach of Marquette High. "On several occasions, both watching them play other teams and when we played them, everyone in the gym knew Lily was getting the ball but there wasn't anything the other team could do about it."

Johnson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at Missouri State University beginning 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Year Stephanie Campbell (2012-2013, Lafayette High School), Alyssa Jensen (2011-12, St. Joseph's Academy), Jade Hayes (2010-11 & 2009-10, Ozark High School), Alison Landwehr (2008-09, Parkway West High School) and Allie Huffman (2007-08, Lee's Summit West) 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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