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**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Jace Henderson of Billings Senior High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Henderson is the fourth Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Henderson as Montana's best high school volleyball player. Henderson 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 senior setter led the Broncs to a 32-0 record and the Class AA state title this past season. Henderson recorded 764 assists, 242 digs, 126 kills, 68 blocks and 39 service aces while compiling a kill percentage of .458. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, she is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a 2013-14 Honorable Mention Under Armour All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Henderson has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program, the Rachel's Challenge student-empowerment program and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Jace Henderson is a phenomenal athlete, but above all, she is a woman of sterling characteristics," said Jodi Alexander, former head coach at Red Lodge High. "Her personality is infectious on and off the court. She stands out in a crowd because of her warm approachable attitude toward all who come into contact with her. Her competitive spirit overflows as she leads her team on the court. You would never know she had a major impact on her team winning a state championship because she never boasts of her triumphs."

Henderson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Montana 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 Henderson joins Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Kyndal Williams (2011-12, Helena High School), Monica Grimsrud (2010-11, Helena High School), Kelsey Williams (2009-10, Helena), Emily Carroll (2008-09, Billings Senior) and Ashley Welborn (2007-08, Billings Senior) 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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