

**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

**WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2013) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Olivia Boender of Waverly High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Player of the Year. Boender is the first Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waverly 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 Boender as Nebraska's best high school volleyball player. Boender 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-2 senior outside hitter amassed 515 kills, 407 digs, 374 service receptions, 45 service aces and 32 blocks this past season, leading the Vikings (31-5) to the Class B state quarterfinals. Named the honorary captain of the Lincoln Journal Star's Super-State squad, Boender recorded a .441 hitting percentage and .523 kill percentage. An Honorable Mention Under Armour All-American selection as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, she totaled 30 digs, 26 kills, 21 service receptions, two blocks and an assist in her team's 3-2, tournament-quarterfinals loss to eventual state champion Norris.

Also a basketball standout, Boender has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom and has been a member of both her school's history club as well as its family and computer science club. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball and basketball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church and as the founder of a "Kills for Cancer" event to benefit the Side-Out Foundation's Dig Pink fundraising campaign.

"I know of no weak areas in her game," said Waverly head coach Terri Neujahr. "Olivia is known for her ability to hit a heavy ball as an extremely powerful attacker. She is one of the most powerful and dynamic hitters ever to come out of the state. But know that Olivia is much more than that. She is a primary passer, outstanding defender and blocker, and attacks the opponent with her serve. Olivia changes opponents' game plan just by her presence on the court. She disrupts opponents to the point that they change where they attack."

Boender has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Boender joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Players of the Year Amber Rolfzen (2012-2013 & 2010-11, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Kadie Rolfzen (2011-12, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Lauren Sieckmann (2009-10, Marian), Gina Mancuso (2008-09, Papillion-La Vista High School) and Lauren Cook (2007-08, Pius X) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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