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CALVARY CHAPEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® NEVADA 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 Deja Harris of Calvary Chapel Christian School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Player of the Year. Harris is the first Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Calvary Chapel Christian 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 Harris as Nevada's best high school volleyball player. Harris 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 middle blocker recorded 395 kills, 64 blocks and 42 service aces this past season, posting a .461 hitting percentage while leading the Lions (28-5) to the Division 3 semifinals. A 2013-14 Under Armour Second Team All-American, Harris was also her conference MVP and is a three-time First Team All-State selection.

Harris has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A mentor to younger students, she has volunteered locally on behalf of homeless shelters, food banks and childcare programs, and has participated in multiple church mission trips.

"Harris is very athletic and very smart," said Karissa Guthrie, head coach at Shadow Ridge High. "She's not afraid to hit the ball hard, but she also sees the court very well."

Harris has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at San Diego State University 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.

Harris joins recent Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Players of the Year Lyndsey Anderson (2012-2013, Spanish Springs High School), Makenna Lommori (2011-12 & 2010-11, Yerington High School), Siga Appelgate (2009-10, Green Valley High School), and Hayley Spelman (2008-09 & 2007-08, Durango High 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.