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**WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA 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 Darian Mack of Wakefield High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year. Mack is the first Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wakefield 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 Mack as North Carolina's best high school volleyball player. Mack 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 outside hitter led the Wolverines to a 25-2 record and the Class 4A state title this past season. Mack recorded 318 kills, 229 digs, 63 service aces and 29 blocks while compiling a kill percentage of .462. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she is a 2013-14 Honorable Mention Under Armour All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Mack has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at an area soup kitchen and on behalf of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation and as part of an elementary education literacy outreach program.

"Darian Mack is a natural at the sport of volleyball," said Traci Smith, head coach at Broughton High. "She is a very dynamic player, an outstanding athlete, she's humble and has an amazing attitude. She engages with younger players as well as opponents in a positive fashion."

Mack has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Mack joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Eve Davis (2012-2013, Charlotte Latin School), Madison Bugg (2011-12 & 2009-10, Cardinal Gibbons High School), Kristen Harris (2010-11, Apex High School), Andrea Beck (2008-09, Mt. Tabor High School) and Katie Kabbes (2007-08, Cardinal Gibbons) 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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