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**STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Taylor Leath of State College Area High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year. Leath is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from State College Area 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 Leath as Pennsylvania's best high school volleyball player. Leath 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-3 senior outside hitter recorded 384 kills, 223 digs, 46 service aces and 42 blocks this past season, leading the Little Lions (18-2) to the Class AAA state tournament.

A two-time All-State selection, Leath was ranked as the No. 90 Senior Ace in the country by PrepVolleyball.com.

Leath has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, youth volleyball camps and a community-inclusion program for students with developmental disabilities.

"She has a great all-around game," said Mike Krause, head coach at Parkland High. "She anticipates well, she varies her swing and she has great presence blocking. She can dominate a game."

Leath has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Leath joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Players of the Year Kelly Robertson (2012-2013, Parkland High School), Alexa Swann (2011-12, Brandywine Heights Area High School), Shelby Manthorpe (2010-11, Merion Mercy Academy), Kate Begor (2009-10, Mt. Lebanon), Danielle Carrozza (2008-09, Merion Mercy Academy) and Helen Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Merion Mercy Academy) 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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