

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH 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 Maddie Palmer of Hillcrest High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year. Palmer is the fourth Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hillcrest 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 Palmer as South Carolina's best high school volleyball player. Palmer 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 Rams to a 58-5 record and the Class AAAA state championship this past season. A Class AAAA First Team All-State selection as named by the South Carolina Coaches Association for Women's Sports, Palmer amassed 509 kills, compiling a .404 hitting percentage and .513 kill percentage, to go along with 392 digs, 56 blocks and 25 service aces. In the Rams' 3-2, title-clinching victory against Wando, she totaled 23 digs, 17 kills, four service aces and three blocks.

Palmer has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and her school's Solid Rock Club, she has volunteered on behalf of her church, the Meals on Wheels Association of America, the Harvest Outreach Center, Feed My Starving Children and Generations Group Home. Palmer has also donated her time organizing a childcare service for special needs children.

"Maddie is a great all-around player," said Hillcrest head coach Lynn Avant. "She can take over a match with her attacking and her blocking. When the game is on the line, she wants the ball."

Palmer remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Palmer joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Sydney Moseley (2012-2013, Hillcrest High School), Kylie Haun (2011-12, Hillcrest High School), Karis Watson (2010-11, Rock Hill High School), Kellie Schmidt (2009-10, Lexington), Christina Glover (2008-09, Wando High School) and Ashley Marshall (2007-08, Hillcrest) 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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