

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

**BELLARMINA PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Courtney Schwan of Bellarmine Preparatory School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year. Schwan is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bellarmine Preparatory 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 Schwan as Washington's best high school volleyball player. Schwan 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter led the Lions to a 35-0 record and a second straight Class 4A state title this past season. Schwan recorded 498 kills, 284 digs, 89 service aces and 38 blocks while posting a hitting percentage of .449 and a kill percentage of .552. A 2013 American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team Under Armour All-American, she is a two-time Class 4A State Player of the Year and State Tournament MVP. She is also a four-time Narrows League MVP.

Schwan has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished pianist, she has volunteered locally at a daycare center, at the Fife Police Halloween Carnival and Fife City Santa Run and as part of multiple service initiatives through her church youth group.

"Courtney Schwan doesn't just beat you with her power," said John Reopelle, head coach of Rogers High. "She has such good court vision that she can beat you with the short game as well. She hides her off-speed shot better than most, but sets it up by hammering the ball at you a few times to get you on your heels."

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

Two-time winner Schwan joins Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Katlyn Mataya (2011-12, Burlington-Edison High School), Rachel Roeder (2010-11, Issaquah High School), Alexis Olgard (2009-10, Mead), Kylin Munoz (2008-09, Monroe) and Brittany Quick (2007-08, Hanford) 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).

###