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**MUSSELMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Lord of Musselman High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Lord is the third Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Musselman 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 Lord as West Virginia's best high school volleyball player. Lord 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 5-foot-9 junior outside hitter led the Applemen to a 44-6 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Also the Player of the Year as named by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, Lord amassed 577 kills, compiling a .329 hitting percentage and .458 kill percentage, to go along with 471 service receptions, 315 digs, 31 service aces and 27 blocks. In Musselman's 3-0, title-clinching victory against Greenbrier East, she totaled 15 kills, eight digs and three service aces.

Lord has maintained a 4.35 weighted GPA in the classroom, ranks No. 1 in her graduating class and serves on her school's student council. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Rotary International's Interact club, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a women's shelter supply drive, the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation, a Volley for the Cure fundraising event and a charity Volley to End Dementia Night.

"Taylor is an exceptional all-around player," said Musselman head coach Shawn Martz. "She dominates in the front row as well as excelling in ball control and defense. Taylor has a unique ability to attack at a high percentage out of the back row as well as the front. She is also an intense competitor, always bringing her best in the big matches, and is one of the hardest workers in the practice gym."

Lord will begin her senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Lord joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Shreve (2012-2013, George Washington High School), Taylor Allen (2011-12, Musselman High School), Hannah Bailey (2010-11, Spring Valley High School), Lexy Kessel (2009-10, Ripley), Erica Manor (2008-09, Musselman High School) and Cameron Yoho (2007-08, Tyler Consolidated) 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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