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**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2014) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kayla Sims of South Anchorage High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year. Sims is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Sims as Alaska's best high school volleyball player. Sims 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 senior setter and right side hitter led the Wolverines to a 38-7 record and the Class 4A state title this past season. A 2014 First Team All-State selection, Sims amassed 984 assists and slammed 182 kills this fall. She was named MVP of both the Class 4A state tournament and the Dimond/Service Tournament in late October.

Sims has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. She has served as an elected member of her student government and has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group, as a mentor for students with special needs and as a volleyball camp counselor.

"Kayla Sims is one of those special athletes that a coach can count on to go above and beyond in her preparation and work ethic," said Kim Lauwers, head coach at Dimond High. "I don't think she would know what to do with any extra time in her day but I believe she would use it to advance her sports skills or athletic ability."

Sims 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.

Sims joins recent Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Leah Swiss (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dimond High School), Morgan Hooe (2011-12, South Anchorage High School), Deanna Nielson (2010-11, Dimond High School), Taylor Adams (2009-10, Dimond), Lauren Fulton (2008-09, Dimond) and Sarah Hibbert (2007-08, South Anchorage) 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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