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**REDONDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Yaasmeen Bedart-Ghani of Redondo Union High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year. Bedart-Ghani is the second Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Redondo Union 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 Bedart-Ghani as California's best high school volleyball player. Bedart-Ghani 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-4 senior outside hitter led the Sea Hawks to a 39-2 record and the Division I state championship this past season. A Preseason Third Team All-USA selection by USA TODAY, Bedart-Ghani slammed 483 kills while compiling a .538 kill percentage and .403 hitting percentage. Also an Under Armour First Team All-America selection as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, she added 163 digs, 82 blocks and 63 service aces in 2014. In a three-set sweep of Pitman in the Division I state championship match, Bedart-Ghani recorded a match-high 16 kills. She was a sophomore at Marymount when the Sailors captured the 2012 Division I state championship.

Bedart-Ghani has maintained a 3.00 GPA in the classroom. In addition to working at Redondo Beach's MAC Athletic Club, she has donated her time as a youth volleyball instructor. She has also volunteered on behalf of the Heroes for Hope Race for Research to benefit the fight against brain tumors.

"Yaazie is an extreme power hitter with the ability to carry a team in the biggest moments," said John Tawa, publisher of PrepVolleyball.com. "She intimidates with her mere presence, then backs it up with thunderous spikes and will-sapping blocks. There's a reason she played in three state finals over her four-year career."

Bedart-Ghani has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Texas in the fall of 2015.

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.

Bedart-Ghani joins recent Gatorade California Volleyball Players of the Year Taylor Nelson (2013-14, Granite Bay High School), Skylar Dykstra (2012-13, Redondo Union High School), Emily Sklar (2011-12, Presentation High School), Krista Vansant (2010-11, Redlands East Valley High School), Rachel Williams (2009-10, Archbishop Mitty), Lauren Corp (2008-09, Orange Lutheran) and Tarah Murrey (2007-08, Saint Mary's) 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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