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**LEWIS-PALMER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® COLORADO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2014) — In its 30<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 Alexa Smith of Lewis-Palmer High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year. Smith is the first Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lewis-Palmer 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 Smith as Colorado's best high school volleyball player. Smith 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-1 senior outside hitter led the Rangers to a 29-0 record and a second consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. Smith slammed 362 kills while recording a .519 kill percentage and .393 hitting percentage. The Class 4A Player of the Year as named by the Colorado High School Athletic Association, she amassed 425 service receptions, 202 digs, 73 service aces and 37 blocks. In a 3-1, title-clinching victory against Ponderosa, Smith collected 20 service receptions, 16 kills, 11 digs, three service aces and two blocks. She was selected to the U.S. Women's Junior National Team in June.

Also a basketball standout, Smith has maintained a 4.00 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she was a finalist in a statewide DECA competition and received Lewis-Palmer's 2013 Ranger of the Year award as the sophomore who most exemplifies excellence in leadership, academics and athletics. A member of her school's National Honor Society and Key Club International chapters as well as its peer-mentoring program, Smith has volunteered on behalf of her church, the Marian House Soup Kitchen, the Restore Innocence organization and the Dream Power Animal Rescue foundation.

"Smith's presence on the court is special," said Shelley Lockwood, co-head coach of rival Pine Creek High. "I've been coaching 29 years, and I've never seen such a humble, beautiful player all the way around. I've seen a lot of players, but there's just something special about that one. She's so graceful."

Smith has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Purdue University 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year Haleigh Washington (2013-14 & 2012-13, Doherty High School), Nicole Dalton (2011-12 & 2010-11, Chaparral High School), Morgan Broekhuis (2009-10 & 2008-09, Colorado Springs Christian), and Lauren Van Orden (2007-08, Grandview) 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).

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