

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Ellis of Century High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year. Ellis is the third Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Ellis as Idaho's best high school volleyball player. Ellis 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 Volleyball Player of the Year, Ellis led the Diamondbacks to a 37-6 record and a fifth consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. The 5-foot-8 senior outside hitter slammed 381 kills while recording a .450 kill percentage and .363 hitting percentage. Also an Under Armour Third Team All-America selection as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, Ellis amassed 398 digs, 342 service receptions, 71 service aces, 28 blocks and 26 assists. In a pair of title-clinching, three-set sweeps against Bishop Kelly, she collected 49 digs and 32 kills.

Ellis has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of breast cancer awareness and her church in addition to participating in coat and canned food drives for the needy and organizing an Operation Christmas Child Processing Center.

"Kayla is phenomenal in the volleyball world," said Michelle Dodds, interim head coach of rival Eagle High. "She is the backbone of her team. Her physical prowess and mental toughness along with her skill-set creates an unstoppable force. She not only takes control of the match, but she fosters her teammates' confidence and creates a positive, competitive, safe environment for them."

Ellis has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Oregon State 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.

Two-time winner Ellis joins Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Sadie Stutzman (2012-13, Fruitland High School), Jenna Ellis (2011-12, Century High School), Megan Sorenson (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), Morgan Odale (2009-10 & 2008-09, Eagle), and Brittany Hewitt (2007-08, Eagle) 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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