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**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Carlyle Nusbaum of Saint Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Nusbaum is the first Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Thomas Aquinas 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 Nusbaum as Kansas's best high school volleyball player. Nusbaum 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 outside hitter led the Saints to a 42-4 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Nusbaum recorded 390 kills, 262 digs, 59 blocks and 27 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .474. A First Team All-State selection, she was named the 2014 Class 5A Player of the Year by the Kansas Volleyball Association.

Nusbaum has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, as a peer tutor and she has served as a Eucharistic minister in her church community.

"It is hard to capture in words how dynamic Carlyle Nusbaum is and what a game-changer she can be for us," said St. Thomas Aquinas head coach Kim Bogart. "Her dynamic play at the net changes the tempo of the game. She has an unmatched sense of the game from both an offensive and defensive perspective. In the big matches of the year, her defense in the back row has been just as impressive as some of her powerful attacks. She thrives on the big match and pressure."

Nusbaum has verbally committed to play volleyball on scholarship at Tennessee's Lipscomb 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.

Nusbaum joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Kali Eaken (2013-14, Bishop Miege High School), Cassie Wait (2012-13, Gardner-Edgerton High School), Paige Brown (2011-12, St. James Academy), Hanna Forst (2010-11, St. James Academy), Chelsea Cook (2009-10, Blue Valley North), Caitlyn Donahue (2008-09, Blue Valley West) and Kathleen Ludwig (2007-08, Bishop Miege) 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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