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**MERCY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Merideth Jewell of Mercy Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. Jewell is the third Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mercy Academy.

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 Jewell as Kentucky's best high school volleyball player. Jewell 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 senior outside hitter led the Jaguars to a 40-1 record, the state championship and a No. 1 ranking nationally according to PrepVolleyball.com this past season. Jewell recorded 475 kills, 375 digs, 98 blocks and 82 service aces. A 2014-15 Under Armour First Team All-America honoree, she was also named Miss Kentucky Volleyball by the Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association.

Jewell has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball teams and the Lifehouse Maternity Home, a community resource for women facing unexpected pregnancies.

"It's not just Jewell's skills and talent," said Caitlin Welch, head coach at duPont Manual High. "She's got a great drive and will to win, and her volleyball IQ is off the charts. She has a great ability to see what's happening on the court on both sides of the net."

Jewell has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Morehead 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.

Jewell joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Alexa Filley (2013-14, Assumption High School), Courtney Crable (2012-13, Mercy Academy), Katie George (2011-12, Assumption High School), Jeni Houser (2010-11, Assumption High School), Deja McClendon (2009-10, duPont Manual), Casey Garvey (2008-09, Mercy Academy) and Kaitlynn James (2007-08, Assumption) 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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