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**ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Sarah Shelton of Ellsworth High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year. Shelton is the first Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ellsworth 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 Shelton as Maine's best high school volleyball player. Shelton 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 slammed 192 kills while producing a .508 kill percentage this past season, leading the Eagles (8-7) to the Class A state quarterfinals. Also the state's Player of the Year as named by the Maine Volleyball Coaches Association, Shelton totaled 157 service receptions, 102 digs, 84 assists and 56 service aces. In two Class A state tournament matches, she collected 33 kills, 27 digs, 25 service receptions, seven assists and a service ace.

Also a tennis standout, Shelton has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom and serves as treasurer of her school's student council. A member of the National Honor Society, she has also volunteered on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"Sarah Shelton is definitely a standout in the state," said Maine Junior Olympic Volleyball Club coach Andy Pohl, for whom Shelton plays in the summer. "She is one of the best outside hitters in the state, but because Ellsworth needed her skills elsewhere, she didn't get to play much at outside hitter. They had her playing other positions, including setter, and even still, she led them in pretty much every category."

Shelton remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Shelton joins recent Gatorade Maine Volleyball Players of the Year Katrina Meserve (2013-14, Falmouth High School), Mariah Hebert (2012-13, Biddeford High School), Brittany Bona (2011-12, Scarborough High School), Keila Grigware (2010-11, Biddeford High School), Michaela Campbell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Greely), and Mariah Grover (2007-08, Mount Desert Island) 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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