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**OAKDALE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Liz Twilley of Oakdale High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maryland Volleyball Player of the Year. Twilley is the first Gatorade Maryland Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oakdale 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 Twilley as Maryland's best high school volleyball player. Twilley 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-2 senior outside hitter led the Bears to an 18-2 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Twilley slammed 359 kills while recording a .502 kill percentage and .381 hitting percentage. The two-time Frederick County Player of the Year also amassed 215 digs, 198 service receptions, 56 blocks and 29 service aces. In a title-clinching, three-set sweep of Rising Sun, she collected 19 kills, eight service receptions, seven digs, three service aces, two blocks and an assist.

Twilley has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and her school's Leadership Academy, she has volunteered on behalf of Unified Sports charitable initiatives in addition to organizing a community-service initiative to benefit the U.S. Armed Forces.

"She is an outstanding athlete and volleyball player," said Aubrey Pfau, head coach of rival Middletown High. "Each year, she has grown and taken her game to the next level. If you were to attend a match, you learn quickly who she is by her court presence. She is a big threat at the net, and she is an offensive weapon, hitting way above the opponent's block and past any defender with the speed of her arm and strength of her hit. Defensively, she contributes to her team with her blocks and long reach to dig balls."

Twilley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Twilley joins recent Gatorade Maryland Volleyball Players of the Year Sydney Biniak (2013-14, Howard High School), Alex Holston (2012-13 & 2011-12, Sherwood High School), Megan Rosburg (2010-11, River Hill High School), Katy Buck (2009-10, Mount de Sales Academy), and Bailey Webster (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Paul's School for Girls) 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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