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**NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Katherine Carlson of Notre Dame Preparatory School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year. Carlson is the second Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Notre Dame Preparatory 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 Carlson as Michigan's best high school volleyball player. Carlson 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-11 senior outside hitter amassed 1,042 kills, 425 digs, 114 service aces and 63 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .600 and leading the Fighting Irish (57-6) to the Class B semifinals this past season. The state's 2014 Miss Volleyball winner, she is a 2014-15 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour All-America Honorable Mention selection and a three-time First Team All-State honoree.

Carlson has maintained a 4.27 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul charity and as an elementary school tutor in addition to donating her time as a youth basketball, volleyball and soccer coach.

"Katherine Carlson is one of the top players we faced this year," said Kathy Lehman, head coach at Concord High. "She can attack the ball with power, but can also find the open spot and put the ball down with finesse. She is a great defender and because of her size, she can cover a lot of court. I think the quality I liked best about her, however, is that she is a great teammate."

Carlson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Indiana's Valparaiso 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.

Carlson joins recent Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Players of the Year Carli Snyder (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dakota High School), Maddy Doyle (2011-12, Mercy High School), Alex Lovell (2010-11, Marian High School), Rachel Charles (2009-10, Marian), Megan Hendrickson (2008-09, Jenison) and Molly Coldren (2007-08, Notre Dame Preparatory School) 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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