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**HOPKINS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Samantha Seliger Swenson of Hopkins High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year. Seliger Swenson is the first Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hopkins 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 Seliger Swenson as Minnesota's best high school volleyball player. Seliger Swenson 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 setter amassed 1,063 assists, 268 digs, 98 service aces, 94 kills and 82 blocks, leading the Royals (23-6) to the Class AAA Section 6 semifinals this past season. A three-time First Team All-State selection and the 2014 Minneapolis Star Tribune Player of the Year, Seliger Swenson is ranked No. 8 nationally in the Class of 2015 by PrepVolleyball.com and is a 2014-15 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour First Team All-America honoree.

Seliger Swenson has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor as well as on behalf of the National Marrow Donation Program and the Liberty Triathlon.

"Samantha Seliger Swenson is the best setter in the state," said Sean Haugen, head coach at Maple Grove High. "She has the ability to make everyone around her better. She has always placed the team before herself and that is a quality that you cannot train. She is a wonderful ambassador for our sport and she has many younger players who look up to her."

Seliger Swenson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Seliger Swenson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year Taylr McNeil (2013-14, Eagan High School), Sarah Wilhite (2012-13 & 2011-12, Eden Prairie High School), Kellie McNeil (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Ashley Wittman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Shakopee) and Jennifer Lopez (2007-08, DGF) 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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