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**OCEAN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Blake Mohler of Ocean Springs High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year. Mohler is the first Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ocean Springs 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 Mohler as Mississippi's best high school volleyball player. Mohler 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 middle blocker recorded 482 kills, 120 blocks and 91 service aces this past season, leading the Greyhounds (25-8) to the Class III quarterfinals. A 2014-15 Under Armour Second Team All-America selection, Mohler is a three-time member of the Sun Herald All-Coast team and was ranked as the No. 17 Senior Ace nationally by PrepVolleyball.com.

Mohler has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has served on the student council and has volunteered locally as a peer mentor.

"Mohler is 6-foot-2, she's strong at the net and she has a monster jump serve," said Allison Burchyett, head coach at Southaven High. "Once she gets going, she's hard to stop."

Mohler has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Purdue 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.

Mohler joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Players of the Year Brittany Corder (2013-14, Our Lady Academy), Breann Hedin (2012-13, Long Beach High School), Sarah Farmer (2011-12, Tupelo High School), Victoria Nutting (2010-11, Hancock High School), Alison Welch (2009-10, Olive Branch), Charquita Anderson (2008-09, Southaven) and Claire Franks (2007-08, Olive Branch) 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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