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**LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Madison Duello of Liberty High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year. Duello is the first Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty 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 Duello as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. Duello 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-3 senior outside hitter recorded 546 kills, 239 digs, 53 blocks and 23 service aces this past season, leading the Blue Jays (34-2-1) to a fourth-place finish in the Class 4 state tournament. Duello posted a hitting percentage of .403 and a kill percentage of .495. A 2014 First Team All-America selection by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, Duello is ranked as the No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2015 by PrepVolleyball.com. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,391 kills and 699 digs.

Duello has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Liberty High Key Club, she has volunteered locally as an elementary school aide and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Madison Duello did an incredible job this season being a complete force for their offense," said Jan Patterson, head coach of Platte County High. "What makes her so dangerous on the floor is not just her amazing talent, but also her leadership and contagious passion for the game."

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

Duello joins recent Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Year Lily Johnson (2013-14, Lafayette High School), Stephanie Campbell (2012-2013, Lafayette High School), Alyssa Jensen (2011-12, St. Joseph's Academy), Jade Hayes (2010-11 & 2009-10, Ozark High School), Alison Landwehr (2008-09, Parkway West) and Allie Huffman (2007-08, Lee's Summit West) 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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