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**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Taylor Mims of Billings Senior High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Mims is the sixth Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Mims as Montana's best high school volleyball player. Mims 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 middle blocker led the Broncs to a 38-1-1 record and their third straight Class AA state title this past season. Mims recorded 493 kills, 281 digs, 177 blocks and 61 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .481. A 2014-15 American Volleyball Coaches Association Under Armour Second Team All-America selection, she slammed 20 kills with 13 blocks in the state title-clinching win over Skyview.

Mims has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the YMCA and an area homeless shelter in addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach.

"I have watched Taylor Mims develop into a strong and confident young lady who can play multiple positions on the court," said Kelly Deming, head coach at Billings West. "She has improved her all-around game the past two years and will continue to improve as she plays at the collegiate level. As an opposing coach, we have to appreciate the effectiveness of the athletes we come up against and Taylor Mims by far is one of the strongest players in this region."

Mims has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Washington State 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.

Mims joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Jace Henderson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Kyndal Williams (2011-12, Helena High School), Monica Grimsrud (2010-11, Helena High School), Kelsey Williams (2009-10, Helena), Emily Carroll (2008-09, Billings Senior) and Ashley Welborn (2007-08, Billings Senior) 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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