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**CHARLOTTE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA 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 Katharine Franz of Charlotte Country Day School as its 2014-15 Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year. Franz is the first Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Charlotte Country Day 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 Franz as North Carolina's best high school volleyball player. Franz 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 senior middle hitter led the Buccaneers to a 44-1 record and their second straight North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association Class 3A state title this past season. Franz recorded 412 kills, 295 digs, 65 service aces and 47 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .537. A 2014-15 American Volleyball Coaches Association Honorable Mention Under Armour All-America selection, she racked up 19 kills and 11 digs in the title-clinching win over Covenant Day.

Franz has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Levine Children's hospital and as a youth volleyball camp counselor.

"Katharine Franz was a force that we were unable to shut down," said Heather Mills, head coach at Covenant Day. "She is fierce and the power with which she contacts the ball on a slide is unmatched and proves to be phenomenally difficult to block. She is an even-tempered opponent who supports her team in every way."

Franz has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Davidson College 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.

Franz joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Darian Mack (2013-14, Wakefield High School), Eve Davis (2012-13, Charlotte Latin School), Madison Bugg (2011-12 & 2009-10, Cardinal Gibbons High School), Kristen Harris (2010-11, Apex High School), Andrea Beck (2008-09, Mt. Tabor) and Katie Kabbes (2007-08, Cardinal Gibbons) 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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