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**WEST ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OREGON VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 11, 2014) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Payton Rund of West Albany High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year. Rund is the second Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Albany 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 Rund as Oregon's best high school volleyball player. Rund 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 outside hitter recorded 433 kills, 279 digs, 59 blocks and 38 service aces this past season, leading the Bulldogs (23-6) to a third-place finish in the Class 6A state tournament. The 2013 Class 5A State Player of the Year and State Tournament MVP, Rund was the 2014 Greater Valley Conference MVP after West Albany moved up to the state's highest classification. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,143 kills and 742 digs.

Rund has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and has donated her time at elementary school carnivals.

"Payton Rund is a well-rounded player," said Kellie Scholl, head coach of McNary High. "Her back-row defense is just as much of a threat on the court as her front-row offense. West Albany's success was hugely due to what Payton brought to the court."

Rund has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on a scholarship at St. Mary's (Calif.) 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.

Rund joins recent Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Troutman (2013-14, Crook County High School), Tani Stephens (2012-13, West Albany High School), Martenne Bettendorf (2011-12, Central Catholic High School), Elizabeth Brenner (2010-11 & 2009-10, Jesuit High School), Garyn Schlatter (2008-09, Canby) and Kim Hill (2007-08, Portland Christian) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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