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**NORTH ALLEGHENY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Meg Morningstar of North Allegheny High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year. Morningstar is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Allegheny 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 Morningstar as Pennsylvania's best high school volleyball player. Morningstar 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 293 kills and 117 blocks this past season, leading the Tigers (14-8) to the Class AAA quarterfinals. A two-time All-State selection, she also posted a hitting percentage of .444 and earned First Team All-WPIAL honors for the third time.

Morningstar has maintained a 4.27 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented artist and a basketball standout, she has served in the student council and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball programs.

"Morningstar is a very dominant player," said Shawn Palmer, head coach at Bethel Park High. "She takes away the net and controls what you want to do offensively. She's very powerful and she's got a good array of shots."

Morningstar has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Morningstar joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Players of the Year Taylor Leath (2013-14, State College Area High School), Kelly Robertson (2012-13, Parkland High School), Alexa Swann (2011-12, Brandywine Heights Area High School), Shelbey Manthorpe (2010-11, Merion Mercy Academy), Kate Begor (2009-10, Mt. Lebanon), Danielle Carrozza (2008-09, Merion Mercy Academy) and Helen Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Merion Mercy Academy) 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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