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**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Jen Donnelly of Exeter-West Greenwich High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year. Donnelly is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter-West Greenwich 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 Donnelly as Rhode Island's best high school volleyball player. Donnelly 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 5-foot-9 senior middle hitter led the Scarlet Knights to a 20-0 record and the Division I state title this past season. Donnelly tallied 291 kills, 77 digs, 61 blocks and 41 service aces while posting a .311 hitting percentage and a .440 kill percentage. The 2014 Division I Player of the Year, she won that same honor in Division II as a sophomore and junior, leading EWG to back-to-back state championships and a three-peat across two classifications. Donnelly notched 15 kills, five digs and three blocks in the 2014 state title match and was named tournament MVP. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 836 kills.

Donnelly has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. A member of Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse, she has volunteered locally at a food pantry and as both a peer and elementary school mentor. She has also donated her time as an interpreter and translator for hearing-impaired students at school functions.

"Jen Donnelly's tenacity and fire were unmatched this season," said Josh D'Abate, head coach of Mount St. Charles High. "A lefty hitting out of the middle is a hard thing to do, but Jen did it with ease and was unstoppable on most nights."

Donnelly will attend Springfield (Mass.) College next fall, where she will play volleyball.

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.

Donnelly joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Players of the Year Samantha Higgins (2013-14, Coventry High School), Taylor Stevens (2012-13, Ponaganset High School), Kelsey Lace (2011-12, Mount Saint Charles Academy), Elise Walsh (2010-11 & 2009-10, The Prout School), Katie Walsh (2008-09, The Prout School) and Sam Andreozzi (2007-08, North Kingstown) 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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