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**MUSSELMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Lord of Musselman High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Lord is the third Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Musselman 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 Lord as West Virginia's best high school volleyball player. Lord 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 outside hitter led the Applemen to a 49-6-1 record and a second consecutive Class AAA state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Lord slammed 758 kills while recording a .505 kill percentage and .418 hitting percentage. A two-time Player of the Year as named by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, Lord also amassed 479 service receptions, 341 digs, 57 service aces and 43 blocks. In a 3-1, title-clinching victory against Martinsburg, she tallied 28 service receptions, 25 kills, 14 digs, two blocks and a service ace.

Lord has maintained a 4.42 weighted GPA in the classroom, ranks No. 1 in her graduating class and serves on her school's student council. A member of the National Honor Society and Rotary International's Interact club, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a women's shelter supply drive, the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation, a Volley for the Cure fundraising event and a charitable Volley to End Dementia Night.

"Taylor is an outstanding player who leads her team in her actions as well as with her words," said Joy Vandine, head coach of rival Hedgesville High. "I am sure you know all of the statistical information on her game play, but she is also an outstanding individual off the court. I believe she is a great example of not only the players all coaches strive to have, but also the character of a leader."

Lord has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Robert Morris 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.

Two-time winner Lord joins Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Shreve (2012-13, George Washington High School), Taylor Allen (2011-12, Musselman High School), Hannah Bailey (2010-11, Spring Valley High School), Lexy Kessel (2009-10, Ripley), Erica Manor (2008-09, Musselman) and Cameron Yoho (2007-08, Tyler Consolidated) 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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