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**MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 8, 2015) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sara Carr of Mountain Brook High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year. Carr is the first Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Brook 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 Carr as Alabama's best high school volleyball player. Carr 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 state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Carr led the Spartans to a 46-5 record and a second consecutive Class 7A state championship this past season. The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter slammed 656 kills while recording a .454 kill percentage and .340 hitting percentage. Also the returning State Player of the Year as named by AL.com, Carr amassed 581 digs, 116 service aces and 55 blocks this past fall. In the title-clinching sweep of McGill-Toolen Catholic, she collected 13 kills, 12 digs and two service aces, capturing a second straight Class 7A state tournament Most Valuable Player honor.

Also a basketball standout, Carr has maintained a 4.24 weighted GPA in the classroom and serves in her school's student government. A member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America as well as Mountain Brook's Spanish, Outreach and National Beta clubs, she has donated her time as a youth volleyball instructor. Carr has also volunteered locally on behalf of her church, a youth literacy-outreach program, a food pantry ministry and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"This kid is awesome," said Karen Riggins, head coach at rival Hewitt-Trussville. "Her on-the-court presence portrays a positive attitude and good sportsmanship at all times. In terms of skills, she has great technique, very aggressive, agile and just very purposeful in every action. She is a pleasure to watch."

Carr has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Emory University in the fall of 2016.

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 Carr joins Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Players of the Year Leah Lawrence (2013-14, Covenant Christian Academy), Virginia Pittman (2012-13, Bayside Academy), Cati Leak (2011-12 & 2010-11, Guntersville High School), Chelsea Wintzinger (2009-10, Huntsville High School), Catherine Rebarchak (2008-09, St. Paul's Episcopal School) and MacKenzie Wilson (2007-08, Grissom High School) 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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