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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**PLATT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Gabriela Vazquez of Platt High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year. Vazquez is the first Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Platt 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 Vazquez as Connecticut's best high school volleyball player. Vazquez 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-7 senior outside hitter led the Panthers to a 20-3 record and the Class L state championship this past season. Vazquez recorded 416 kills, 272 digs and 126 service aces. MVP of the state title game, she is also a two-time All-State honoree and a member of the All-Hartford Courant team.

Vazquez has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of Meriden.

"Vazquez never leaves the court and defenses have to constantly be aware of where she's playing," said Matt Warner, head coach at Glastonbury High. "She can take over matches both offensively and defensively."

Vazquez remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Vazquez joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Players of the Year Izzy Taylor (2014-15, Darien High School), Sarah Veilleux (2013-14, RHAM High School), Marina Rose (2012-13, Coventry High School), Kyley Reed (2011-12, Rocky Hill High School), Madison McCaffery (2010-11, Fairfield Ludlowe High School), Tessa Smolinski (2009-10, RHAM High School), Erika Videtto (2008-09, Greenwich High School) and Janice Ehorn (2007-08, Amity Regional 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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