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**P.K. YONGE STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Jac'cara Walker of P.K. Yonge as its 2015-16 Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year. Walker is the first Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from P.K. Yonge.

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 Walker as Florida's best high school volleyball player. Walker 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-10 senior outside hitter led the Blue Wave to a 31-1 record and a second consecutive state championship this past season. Walker slammed 399 kills while recording a .580 kill percentage and .449 hitting percentage. The Class 3A Player of the Year as named by the Florida Dairy Farmers, Walker amassed 328 digs, 25 blocks and 21 service aces. In a title-clinching sweep of Palmer Trinity, she collected 11 kills and nine digs. A two-time AAU national champion, she captured MVP honors in the 2015 AAU Girls' Junior National Volleyball Championships 17 Club division this past summer.

Walker has maintained a 3.08 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of her church, the Girls' Place after-school program and Little Foxxes Daycare.

"What she has been able to do at P.K. Yonge is beyond commendable," said Drew Schaeffer, head coach at rival Oak Hall School. "She provided leadership both on and off the court, allowing P.K. Yonge to grow from a team that couldn't make it out of regional state tournament play, to making it to the regional finals her sophomore year and then winning back-to-back state titles the past two years."

Walker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Marshall 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.

Walker joins recent Gatorade Florida Volleyball Players of the Year Courtney Furlong (2014-15, Oviedo High School), Christina Ambrose (2013-14, Winter Park High School), Lindsey Owens (2012-13, Bishop Moore High School), Jordan Burgess (2011-12 & 2010-11, Berkeley Preparatory School), Maddie Martin (2009-10, H.B. Plant High School), Jessica Yingling (2008-09, Timber Creek High School) and Kellie Catanach (2007-08, H.B. Plant 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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