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**IDAHO FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Maya Taylor of Idaho Falls High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year. Taylor is the first Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Idaho Falls 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 Taylor as Idaho's best high school volleyball player. Taylor 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-11 junior outside hitter led the Tigers to a 36-6 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Taylor recorded 503 kills, 245 digs, 47 blocks and 39 service aces. The High Country Conference Player of the Year, she is also a three-time First Team All-State selection.

Taylor has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and youth volleyball programs.

"Taylor is so strong and she can really hit a ball," said Meranda Maestas, head coach at Madison High. "I'm not sure I've seen anyone else at a high school age hit the way she does. She's just a great all-around player."

Taylor will begin her senior year of high school next fall.

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.

Taylor joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Kayla Ellis (2014-15 & 2013-14, Century High School), Sadie Stutzman (2012-13, Fruitland High School), Jenna Ellis (2011-12, Century High School), Megan Sorenson (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), Morgan Odale (2009-10 & 2008-09, Eagle High School) and Brittany Hewitt (2007-08, Eagle 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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