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**ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Molly Haggerty of St. Francis High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year. Haggerty is the first Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Francis 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 Haggerty as Illinois's best high school volleyball player. Haggerty 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 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter led the Spartans to a 39-3 record and the Class 4A state title this past season. Haggerty recorded 467 kills with 200 digs and 21 service aces while posting a .587 kill percentage. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, she is a 2015 Under Armour First Team All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association and is the nation's No. 5 recruit as rated by PrepVolleyball.com.

Haggerty has maintained a 3.21 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation in addition to donating her time on behalf of a holiday toy drive at her school.

"Molly Haggerty is the best player to ever play at St. Francis," said St. Francis head coach Peg Kopec. "She has improved dramatically each year and even I did not think the quantity of this growth possible. She can hit any set well and her blocking ability is outstanding. She is truly amazing."

Haggerty has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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 Haggerty joins Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Players of the Year Ali Frantti (2013-14, Richmond-Burton Community High School), Lauren Carlini (2012-13, West Aurora High School), Alexis Viliunas (2011-12, Lyons Township High School), Kelly Lamberti (2010-11, Cary-Grove High School), Annemarie Hickey (2009-10, Joliet Catholic Academy), Hannah Werth (2008-09, Glenwood) and Kelly Murphy (2007-08, Joliet Catholic Academy) 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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