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**WEST DELAWARE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Carlee Ketchum of West Delaware High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. Ketchum is the first Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Delaware 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 Ketchum as Iowa's best high school volleyball player. Ketchum 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 setter led the Hawks to a 49-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Ketchum recorded 992 assists, 331 digs, 211 kills and 39 blocks. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was captain of the Class 4A All-State Tournament team and was named Player of the Year by the Iowa Girls Coaches Association.

Ketchum has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. A member of the student council and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has volunteered locally as a youth religion teacher and a volleyball camp counselor.

"It takes a lot of skill and intelligence to run that fast-tempo offense, and Ketchum is an expert," said Maggie Willems, head coach at Mt. Vernon High. "She's a great leader and teammate, and a transformative player when the game is on the line."

Ketchum has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Upper Iowa 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.

Ketchum joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Mikaela Foecke (2014-15 & 2013-14, Holy Trinity Catholic High School), Alexis Conaway (2012-13, MOC-Floyd Valley High School), Megan Gilbert (2011-12, Tripoli High School), Ali Stark (2010-11, Mt. Vernon High School), Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford High School), Chelsey Semprini (2008-09, Ankeny High School) and Brittany Ridenour (2007-08, Abraham Lincoln 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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