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**NOTRE DAME ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Morgan Hentz of Notre Dame Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. Hentz is the first Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Notre Dame Academy.

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 Hentz as Kentucky's best high school volleyball player. Hentz 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-9 senior outside hitter and libero recorded 465 kills, 476 digs and 41 blocks this past season, leading the Pandas (33-6) to the state semifinals. A 2015-16 Under Armour First Team All-American, Hentz was named Miss Kentucky Volleyball by the Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association.

Hentz has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility and a community center for underprivileged children.

"I can't think of another player who can dominate a game as much as she can," said Michelle Isaac, head coach at Cooper High. "She's a very aggressive player who will take charge of a game and never let it get away from her."

Hentz has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Hentz joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Merideth Jewell (2014-15, Mercy Academy), Alexa Filley (2013-14, Assumption High School), Courtney Crable (2012-13, Mercy Academy), Katie George (2011-12, Assumption High School), Jeni Houser (2010-11, Assumption High School), Deja McClendon (2009-10, duPont Manual High School), Casey Garvey (2008-09, Mercy Academy) and Kaitlynn James (2007-08, Assumption 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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