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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**ROMEO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Gia Milana of Romeo High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year. Milana is the first Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Romeo 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 Milana as Michigan's best high school volleyball player. Milana 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-2 senior outside hitter recorded 773 kills, 318 digs and 105 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .657, leading the Bulldogs (43-5-1) to the Class A state final this past season. The state's Miss Volleyball award-winner and a three-time First Team All-State honoree, she is a 2015 Under Armour First Team All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Milana has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (MCREST) and Orchards Children's Services in addition to donating her time as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Gia Milana has brought another level of excitement to volleyball in our area and is a true role model of what a student-athlete should be," said Tracie Ferguson, head coach at Dakota High. "Her presence on the court cannot be ignored. She's an all-around threat and keeps a composed attitude during play. She lets her kills, blocks, digs and aces do all the talking."

Milana has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Milana joins recent Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Players of the Year Katherine Carlson (2014-15, Notre Dame Preparatory School), Carli Snyder (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dakota High School), Maddy Doyle (2011-12, Mercy High School), Alex Lovell (2010-11, Marian High School), Rachel Charles (2009-10, Marian High School), Megan Hendrickson (2008-09, Jenison High School) and Molly Coldren (2007-08, Notre Dame Preparatory 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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