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**CHAMPLIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Sydney Hilley of Champlin Park High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year. Hilley is the first Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlin Park 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 Hilley as Minnesota's best high school volleyball player. Hilley 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 junior setter and outside hitter recorded 517 kills, 463 assists and 290 digs while posting a kill percentage of .468 and leading the Rebels (30-5) to the Class AAA semifinals this past season. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Hilley was a member of the U.S. Girls' Youth National Volleyball Team, leading a squad of elite prep players to the 2015 FIVB Girls' U18 World Championship final in Peru last summer.

Hilley has maintained a 4.19 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach.

"Sydney Hilley is a once-in-a-lifetime player to coach," said Champlin Park head coach John Yunker. "Not only is she very talented, but she also works very hard and is extremely humble. Her leadership has been a huge strength for our program at all levels."

Hilley has verbally committed to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin in the fall of 2017.

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.

Hilley joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year Samantha Seliger Swenson (2014-15, Hopkins High School), Taylr McNeil (2013-14, Eagan High School), Sarah Wilhite (2012-13 & 2011-12, Eden Prairie High School), Kellie McNeil (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Ashley Wittman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Shakopee High School) and Jennifer Lopez (2007-08, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 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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