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**VILLA DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSOURI VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 8, 2015) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Meghan Donovan of Villa Duchesne High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year. Donovan is the first Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Villa Duchesne 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 Donovan as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. Donovan 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-3 senior setter led the Saints to a 33-7-1 record and the Class 3 state championship this past season. Donovan tallied 1,049 assists, 230 digs, 200 kills, 54 blocks and 48 service aces while posting a .491 kill percentage and a .420 hitting percentage. A 2014 MaxPreps Medium Schools Second Team All-American selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with a state-record 3,468 assists as well as 949 digs and 605 kills.

Donovan has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. The director of a weeklong summer camp for kids, she has also volunteered locally at a sports camp for children with Cerebral Palsy and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Meghan Donovan is a phenomenal player," said Kate Caplinger, head coach of Cor Jesu High. "As a setter, she is very deceptive. Combine that with the fact that she is also a huge offensive threat, and she's nearly impossible to defend."

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

Donovan joins recent Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Year Madison Duello (2014-15, Liberty High School), Lily Johnson (2013-14, Lafayette High School), Stephanie Campbell (2012-13, Lafayette High School), Alyssa Jensen (2011-12, St. Joseph's Academy), Jade Hayes (2010-11 & 2009-10, Ozark High School), Alison Landwehr (2008-09, Parkway West High School) and Allie Huffman (2007-08, Lee's Summit West 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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