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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Caitlin Lonergan of Bozeman High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Lonergan is the second Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Lonergan as Montana's best high school volleyball player. Lonergan 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 led the Hawks to a 26-3 record and the Class AA state title this past season. Lonergan recorded 452 kills, 358 digs and 41 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .440. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she was named the 2015 Class AA Eastern Conference Player of the Year.

Lonergan has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball and basketball coach in addition to donating her time on behalf of the Gallatin Valley Food Bank and Eagle Mount, which provides therapeutic recreational activities for children with cancer.

"Caitlin Lonergan, in my opinion, is the best player in Montana," said Vicki Carle, head coach at Missoula Sentinel High. "She has been rock solid since her sophomore year. She is the player that makes their team work. In addition to her skills, she is a team player."

Lonergan has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Montana State 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.

Lonergan joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Taylor Mims (2014-15, Billings Senior High School), Jace Henderson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Kyndal Williams (2011-12, Helena High School), Monica Grimsrud (2010-11, Helena High School), Kelsey Williams (2009-10, Helena High School), Emily Carroll (2008-09, Billings Senior High School) and Ashley Welborn (2007-08, Billings Senior 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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