

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Jo Coffey of Merrimack High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Player of the Year. Coffey is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Merrimack 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 Coffey as New Hampshire's best high school volleyball player. Coffey 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 setter recorded 724 assists, 208 digs, 93 kills, 58 service aces and 28 blocks this past season, leading the Tomahawks (19-2) to the Division I state semifinals. The New Hampshire Volleyball Coaches Association's 2015 Division I Player of the Year, Coffey is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with a state-record 2,056 assists.

Coffey has maintained a weighted 3.52 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Merrimack High student council, she has volunteered locally at an elementary school, with the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Jo Coffey shattered the career assist record for New Hampshire setters," said David Starin, head coach of Londonderry High. "She was the reason why Merrimack had such a successful season."

Coffey will attend Southern New Hampshire University in the fall of 2016, where she will play volleyball.

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.

Coffey joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Players of the Year Jen Coffey (2014-15, Merrimack High School), Molly Wotton (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dover High School), Kelsey Berry (2011-12, Hollis Brookline High School), Katie Schwarz (2010-11, Londonderry High School), Maria Kuehl (2009-10, Farmington High School), Amanda Saab (2008-09, Salem High School) and Lauren Laquerre (2007-08, Concord 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.

###