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CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Katie Scherr of Century High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Scherr is the first Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Scherr as North Dakota's best high school volleyball player. Scherr 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 senior outside hitter led the Patriots to a 36-2 record and the Class A state title this past season. The 2015 Western Dakota Conference Player of the Year, Scherr slammed 438 kills with 393 digs and 49 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .442. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she racked up nine digs and nine kills in the state-title-clinching win over Fargo Shanley.

Scherr has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. A member the National Honor Society and a devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach.

"Katie Scheer is not only a standout student-athlete and volleyball player, she is also a tremendous leader," said Bismarck Century co-head coach Jamie Zastoupil. "She is a leader in all that she does both on and off the court. She makes everyone around her a better person and her leadership and sportsmanship is second to none. She has earned the respect from teammates, coaches and opposing teams."

Scherr has verbally committed to play volleyball on scholarship at Colorado Mesa 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.

Scherr joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Alivia Fraase (2014-15 & 2013-14, Shanley High School), Kira Larson (2012-13, Fargo North High School), Hadley Steffen (2011-12, Red River High School), Jess Herauf (2010-11, Dickinson High School), Angie Waller (2009-10, Fargo North), Jessie Gust (2008-09, West Fargo) and Danielle Luetzen (2007-08, Minot) 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.