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**DUBLIN COFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Hunter Atherton of Dublin Coffman High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Player of the Year. Atherton is the first Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dublin Coffman 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 Atherton as Ohio's best high school volleyball player. Atherton 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-11 senior setter distributed 734 assists and racked up 171 digs and 146 kills, leading the Shamrocks (26-3) to the Division I state final this past season. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Atherton is a 2015 Under Armour First Team All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association and the nation's No. 41 recruit as rated by PrepVolleyball.com.

Atherton has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Destination Imagination, the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart event and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Hunter Atherton is the best high school setter that I've seen in my 20-year career," said John Buck, head coach at St. Ursula Academy. "She does it all. She runs the team and can make good hitters great and great hitters phenomenal."

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

Atherton joins recent Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Players of the Year Margo Wolf (2014-15, Mount Notre Dame High School), Abby Detering (2013-14, Lake Catholic High School), Michelle Strizak (2012-13, Mount Notre Dame High School), Megan Courtney (2011-12, Archbishop Alter High School), Deme Morales (2010-11, Steele High School), Dani Reinert (2009-10, Ursuline Academy), Lauren Whyte (2008-09, Olmsted Falls High School) and Missy Harpenau (2007-08, Mother of Mercy 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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