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**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Nicole Peterson of Jesuit High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year. Peterson is the fourth Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Peterson as Oregon's best high school volleyball player. Peterson 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 setter led the Crusaders to a 32-0 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Peterson tallied 956 assists, 142 digs, 120 service aces, 95 kills and 22 blocks while posting a .552 kill percentage and a .453 hitting percentage. The 2014 Class 6A Player of the Year as an outside hitter, Peterson won the award again in 2015 as a setter. A two-time Metro League Player of the Year, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 978 assists, 665 kills and 232 service aces.

Peterson has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with Portland After School Tennis and Education and the Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel. In addition, she has donated her time at a daycare center and an eldercare facility.

"In my 40 years as a head varsity coach, I have not seen a better serve than Nicole Peterson's," said Rick Lorenz, head coach of Central Catholic High. "Sometimes she would run off 10-15 points. She is not weak at any skill."

Peterson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of San Francisco 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.

Peterson joins recent Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Players of the Year Payton Rund (2014-15, West Albany High School), Hannah Troutman (2013-14, Crook County High School), Tani Stephens (2012-13, West Albany High School), Martenne Bettendorf (2011-12, Central Catholic High School), Elizabeth Brenner (2010-11 & 2009-10, Jesuit High School), Garyn Schlatter (2008-09, Canby High School) and Kim Hill (2007-08, Portland Christian 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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