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**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Jenna Bridges of Exeter-West Greenwich High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year. Bridges is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter-West Greenwich 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 Bridges as Rhode Island's best high school volleyball player. Bridges 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 middle hitter recorded 501 kills, 108 digs, 74 blocks and 37 service aces this past season, leading the Scarlet Knights (16-3) to the Division I state quarterfinals. The 2015 Division I Player of the Year, Bridges posted a .507 kill percentage and a .378 hitting percentage. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 963 kills and 212 blocks.

Bridges has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. An avid musician who plays the piano, trombone, clarinet, flute and drums, she has volunteered locally as a peer math tutor and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group.

"Even when trying to set up a specific game plan against Jenna, she still was able to be effective," said Doug Bliven, head coach of Chariho High. "Even though we knew where the ball was going, it still didn't matter. If not for her, there is no way that team would have been that successful this season."

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

Bridges joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Players of the Year Jen Donnelly (2014-15, Exeter-West Greenwich High School), Samantha Higgins (2013-14, Coventry High School), Taylor Stevens (2012-13, Ponaganset High School), Kelsey Lace (2011-12, Mount Saint Charles Academy), Elise Walsh (2010-11 & 2009-10, The Prout School) and Sam Andreozzi (2007-08, North Kingstown 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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