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**SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Devon Chang of Santa Margarita Catholic High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year. Chang is the first Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Santa Margarita Catholic 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 Chang as California's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Chang joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert HS, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public HS, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View HS, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas HS, Fla.).

The 5-foot-11 senior setter led the Eagles to a 34-9 record and the Division 1 state championship this past season. Chang amassed 1,171 assists, 361 digs, 85 kills, 82 blocks and 31 service aces. A 2017-18 Under Armour Second Team All-American, she was also the Orange County Player of the Year and a First Team MaxPreps All-American.

Chang has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, a youth literacy initiative and Families Forward, which assists homeless families. "Devon Chang does everything on the court," said Andrew Mabry, head coach at Orange Lutheran High School. "She has the ability to take over a match from the setter position, which isn't common. She digs everything, she serves well and she's one of the better blockers we've played against. She's a great player and she does a lot of things that don't even show up on the stat sheet."

Chang has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at UCLA this fall.

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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Chang joins recent Gatorade California Volleyball Players of the Year Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School), Kathryn Plummer (2015-16, Aliso Niguel High School), Yaasmeen Bedart-Ghani (2014-15, Redondo Union High School), Taylor Nelson (2013-14, Granite Bay High School), Skylar Dykstra (2012-13, Redondo Union High School), Emily Sklar (2011-12, Presentation High School), Krista Vansant (2010-11, Redlands East Valley High School), Rachel Williams (2009-10, Archbishop Mitty High School), Lauren Corp (2008-09, Orange Lutheran High School) and Tarah Murrey (2007-08, Saint Mary's High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Chang will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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