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**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Raegan Steiner of Billings Senior High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Steiner is the eighth Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Steiner as Montana'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, Steiner 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 6-foot senior outside and opposite-side hitter led the Broncos to a 39-2 record and the Class AA state final this past season. Steiner recorded 431 kills, 262 digs, 37 blocks and 31 service aces in 99 sets. A member of the Under Armour All-American First Team, Steiner was also named Montana's Eastern AA Volleyball Player of the Year.

A member of her school's Senior Advocates and her church youth group, Steiner has also volunteered as a youth volleyball coach and referee as well as working community cleanups. "Steiner was the most consistent player on her team in all areas—attacking, blocking, serving, passing," said Christy Harkins, head coach at Glacier High. "She contributed in all areas, all season. And she did this for at least two consecutive seasons under different coaches. She was able to help get her team back to the state championship game with a different coach, different style of play and different personnel. That's impressive leadership."

Steiner has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Idaho State University 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.

Steiner joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Elsa Godwin (2016-17, Sentinel High School), Caitlin Lonergan (2015-16, Bozeman High School), Taylor Mims (2014-15, Billings Senior High School), Jace Henderson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Kyndal Williams (2011-12, Helena High School), Monica Grimsrud (2010-11, Helena High School), Kelsey Williams (2009-10, Helena High School), Emily Carroll (2008-09, Billings Senior High School) and Ashley Welborn (2007-08, Billings Senior High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Steiner 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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