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**JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Megan Gaffaney of Jamestown High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Gaffaney is the first Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jamestown 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 Gaffaney as North Dakota'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, Gaffaney joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlerlert 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-8 senior setter and middle blocker amassed 1,031 assists, 350 digs and 264 kills this past season, leading the Blue Jays (37-6) to the Class A state championship match. Gaffaney also recorded 99 service aces and 55 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .518 and a hitting percentage of .435. The Class A Senior Player of the Year, Gaffaney is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 3,679 assists, 1,392 digs and 557 kills.

Gaffaney has volunteered locally as an elementary-school teacher's aide in addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Megan Gaffaney ran a 5-1 [formation] and blocked out of the middle, which is a pretty tough thing to do," said Missy Wilson, head coach of Fargo Davies High. "When I saw them play I was like, 'Holy smokes.' She kept that team together."

Gaffaney has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her class. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Jamestown 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.

Gaffaney joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Regan Dennis (2016-17, Century High School), Katie Scherr (2015-16, Century High School), Alivia Fraase (2014-15 & 2013-14, Shanley High School), Kira Larson (2012-13, Fargo North High School), Hadley Steffen (2011-12, Red River High School), Jess Herauf (2010-11, Dickinson High School), Angie Waller (2009-10, Fargo North High School), Jessie Gust (2008-09, West Fargo High School) and Danielle Luetzen (2007-08, Minot High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Gaffaney 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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