

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

SOUTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Chloe Brown of Southridge High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Southridge 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 Brown as Oregon'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, Brown 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 outside hitter led the Skyhawks to a 33-1-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. A transfer student from Westside Christian High, Brown recorded 369 kills, 257 digs, 48 service aces and 23 blocks with posting a kill percentage of .452 and a hitting percentage of .364. The Oregonian's 2017 Player of the Year, Brown is a three-time league MVP. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,479 kills and 1,154 digs.

Brown has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit Live Love NW, a group that provides gifts to foster children at Christmas. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Chloe was a difference-maker for Southridge," said Carl Neuberger, head coach of West Linn High. "She is a complete all-around player. You can't serve her, she is a great ball-control athlete, and having her as a back-row attack option makes that part of Southridge's offense especially potent."

Brown has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Miami (Fla.) 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Players of the Year Kathryn Decker (2016-17, Jesuit High School), Nicole Peterson (2015-16, Jesuit High School), 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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brown 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/>.

###