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**LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Elena Shklyar of Langley High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Shklyar is the second Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Langley 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 Shklyar as Virginia'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, Shklyar 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-1 senior setter and right-side hitter led the Saxons to a 27-3 record and the Class 6 state championship this past season. Shklyar recorded 544 assists, 305 kills, 156 digs, 70 service aces and 38 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .469. A two-time First Team Washington Post All-Met selection, Shklyar contributed 36 assists and 14 kills in Langley's 3-2 win over Frank W. Cox High in the state final. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,299 assists and 879 kills.

A member of her school's yearbook staff, Shklyar has volunteered locally with an animal rescue organization and as a youth volleyball coach. "Elena was key to Langley's success," said Aubrey Mosley, head coach of Washington-Lee High. "She is such a bright player in that she is able to read the court and put the ball where it needs to be as a setter and hitter."

Shklyar has maintained a weighted 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Michigan 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.

Shklyar joins recent Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Abby Bottomley (2016-17, Princess Anne High School), Holly Carlton (2015-16, Potomac Falls High School), Ally Ford (2014-15, Flint Hill School), Alex Andrejev (2013-14, Langley High School), Hailey Brooks (2012-13, Altee High School), Breanna Atkinson (2011-12, The Madeira School), Tori Janowski (2010-11, Flint Hill School), Juliane Hanna (2009-10, Loudoun County High School), Kristin Carpenter (2008-09, Hanover High School) and Alyssa Lang (2007-08, Deep Run High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Shklyar 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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