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**LAKE COUNTRY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Brooke Andersen of Lake Country Lutheran High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year. Andersen is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Country Lutheran 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 Andersen as Wisconsin'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, Andersen 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 6-foot senior outside hitter led the Lightning to a 45-5 record and the Division 3 state championship this past season. Andersen amassed 678 kills, 245 digs, 88 service aces and 30 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .557 and a hitting percentage of .473. An American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American selection, Andersen is a three-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,303 kills and 1,091 digs.

A member of the Lake Country Lutheran student council, Andersen has volunteered locally at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and as a youth volleyball coach. "Brooke's all-around play is superior," said Dawn Walker, head coach of Living Word Lutheran High. "She is very effective as a server, passer and hitter. She is also a great team leader on the court."

Andersen has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Iowa 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.

Andersen joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Players of the Year Mariah Whalen (2016-17, Newman Catholic High School), M.E. Dodge (2015-16, East Troy High School), Carly Townsend (2014-15, Germantown High School), Simone Lee (2013-14, Menomonee Falls High School), Kaysie Shebeneck (2012-13 & 2011-12, Burlington High School), Crystal Graff (2010-11 & 2009-10, La Follette High School), Carol Henney (2008-09, Catholic Central High School) and Janelle Gabrielsen (2007-08, Menomonee Falls High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Andersen 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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