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DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® DELAWARE VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 8, 2015) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sydney Fulton of Delaware Military Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Fulton is the first Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Delaware Military Academy.

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 Fulton as Delaware's best high school volleyball player. Fulton joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, III).

The 5-foot-8 junior setter led the Seahawks to a 20-0 record and the state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Fulton recorded 718 assists, 153 digs, 55 kills and 40 service aces. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was also named Player of the Year by the Delaware Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association.

Fulton has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball programs.

"Fulton's ability as a setter makes every hitter better," said Trevor Bradshaw, head coach at Polytech High. "She was consistent and was able to elevate the entire team."

Fulton will begin her senior year of high school next fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Two-time winner Fulton joins Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Abbie Mirabella (2013-14, St. Mark's High School), Lauren Kerrigan (2012-13 & 2011-12, Wilmington Friends School), Kelly Perillo (2010-11, Charter School of Wilmington), Mariah Henley (2009-10, Ursuline Academy), Nikki Kinnier (2008-09, Saint Mark's High School) and Meghan Bonk (2007-08, Ursuline Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.