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**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 17, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Brynn Sulte of Dimond High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year. Sulte is the fifth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Sulte as Alaska'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, Sulte 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 senior middle blocker led the Lynx to a 24-5 record and a second straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Sulte tallied 305 kills, 95 blocks, 94 digs and 39 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .553 and a hitting percentage of .426. She is a two-time First Team Class 4A honoree.

A member of the German National Honor Society, Sulte has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach. "Brynn Sulte is extremely effective on both offense and defense," said Josie Cannon, head coach of Wasilla High. "She can take over the game." Sulte has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom.

She has made a verbal commitment to attend the United States Air Force Academy, where she will play volleyball 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.

Two-time winner Sulte joins Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Kayla Sims (2014-15, South Anchorage High School), Leah Swiss (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dimond High School), Morgan Hooe (2011-12, South Anchorage High School), Deanna Nielson (2010-11, Dimond High School), Taylor Adams (2009-10, Dimond High School), Lauren Fulton (2008-09, Dimond High School) and Sarah Hibbert (2007-08, South Anchorage) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sulte 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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