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## CORONA DEL SOL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 17, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Brooke Nuneviller of Corona del Sol High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year. Nuneviller is the first Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Corona del Sol 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 Nuneviller as Arizona'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, Nuneviller 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 junior outside hitter led the Aztecs to a 39-5 record and the Conference 6A state championship this past season. Nuneviller tallied 361 kills, 315 digs, 50 service aces and 35 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .373. The Central Region Player of the Year, she was a libero for the 2016 USA Volleyball Girls' Youth National Team, which placed second at the North, Central American and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation (NORCECA) Girls' U18 Continental Championship this past September.

Nuneviller has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and as a youth volleyball coach. "Brooke took her team to a different level," said Brennan O'Connor, head coach of Skyline High. "They won the state championship and they wouldn't have gone that far if she didn't play."

Nuneviller has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 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.

Nuneviller joins recent Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Players of the Year Khalia Lanier (2015-16, Xavier College Prep.), Jenna Tunnell (2014-15, Desert Vista High School), Sarah Sponcil (2013-14 & 2012-13, Veritas Preparatory Academy), Bianca Arellano (2011-12, Xavier College Prep.), Madison Kingdon (2010-11, Sunnyslope High School), Stephanie Preach (2009-10 & 2008-09, Xavier College Prep.), and Cat Highmark (2007-08, Chaparral High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Nuneviller 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.