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**DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Sydney Fulton of Delaware Military Academy as its 2016-17 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. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Fulton 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 5-foot-7 senior setter led the Seahawks to a 16-4 record and their second consecutive state championship this past season. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Fulton recorded 503 assists, 128 digs and 52 service aces. She is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a four-time First Team All-Conference honoree.

Fulton has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school mentoring program and youth volleyball teams. "Sydney Fulton is a poised and definitive leader on the court," said Brandi Anderson, head coach at Appoquinimink High. "She's very focused and very committed. She runs a great floor with the options she has, requiring opponents to make many adjustments."

Fulton has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Three -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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Fulton 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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