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**WAHLERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA 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 Mackenzie May of Wahlert Catholic High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. May is the third Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wahlert Catholic 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 May as Iowa'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, May 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 6-foot-3 senior outside hitter led the Golden Eagles to a 28-6 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. May recorded 619 kills, 182 digs, 48 service aces and 33 blocks. A member of the U.S. Women's Junior National Team, she is the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Player of the Year, a 2016-17 Under Armour Second Team All-American and a MaxPreps First Team All-American.

May has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and youth volleyball programs. "Mackenzie May is one of the best high school players I've ever played or coached against," said Catie Brand, head coach at Pella High. "She's practically unblockable and she can hit every spot on the court. It's just exciting to watch her hit."

May has maintained a 4.09 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at UCLA 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.

May joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Carlee Ketchum (2015-16, West Delaware High School), Mikaela Foecke (2014-15 & 2013-14, Holy Trinity Catholic High School), Alexis Conaway (2012-13, MOC-Floyd Valley High School), Megan Gilbert (2011-12, Tripoli High School), Ali Stark (2010-11, Mt. Vernon High School), Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford), Chelsey Semprini (2008-09, Ankeny High School) and Brittany Ridenour (2007-08, Abraham Lincoln High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, May 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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