

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Madison Lilley of Blue Valley West High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Lilley is the fourth Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley West 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 Lilley as Kansas'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, Lilley 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 senior setter amassed 814 assists and 159 kills this past season, leading the Jaguars (42-2) to the Class 6A state championship match. Lilley also recorded 158 digs, 80 blocks and 25 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .576 and a hitting percentage of .489. A MaxPreps First Team All-American, Lilley was the 2015 Prep Volleyball National Junior of the Year. She was also a member of the 2016 USA Volleyball Women's Junior National Team and concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,976 assists.

Lilley has volunteered locally as a peer mentor through Blue Valley West's High School Leadership Program. "Madison is amazing—she is that whole team," said Molly Haggerty, head coach of Blue Valley Northwest High. "She is their physical, emotional and mental leader. She is fierce, competitive and would make huge plays at clutch times."

Lilley has maintained a weighted 3.59 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Lilley joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Jenna Gray (2015-16, St. James Academy), Carlyle Nusbaum (2014-15, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School), Kali Eaken (2013-14, Bishop Miege High School), Cassie Wait (2012-13, Gardner-Edgerton High School), Paige Brown (2011-12, St. James Academy), Hanna Forst (2010-11, St. James Academy), Chelsea Cook (2009-10, Blue Valley North High School), Caitlyn Donahue (2008-09, Blue Valley West High School) and Kathleen Ludwig (2007-08, Bishop Miege High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lilley 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.

###