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**MOUNT CARMEL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Ellie Holzman of Mount Carmel Academy as its 2016-17 Gatorade Louisiana Volleyball Player of the Year. Holzman is the fourth Gatorade Louisiana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Carmel 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 Holzman as Louisiana'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, Holzman 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 6-foot-2 sophomore middle blocker led the Cubs to a 41-11 record and a second-straight Division I state championship this past season. Holzman amassed 677 kills, 549 digs, 322 blocks and 19 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .462 and a hitting percentage of .421. A MaxPreps Third Team All-American, she was the MVP of the Division I state tournament and the New Orleans Advocate Large School Player of the Year.

A member of the Latin National Honor Society, Holzman has volunteered locally with an anti-drug and violence program in addition to donating her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Ellie was the heart and soul of Mount Carmel," said Jody Walker, head coach of Mandeville High. "Offensively she was the best player in the state—she was unstoppable. She could read the block, hit around you and hit through you when she needed to."

Holzman has maintained a weighted 4.64 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Holzman joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Volleyball Players of the Year Kristen Nuss (2015-16, Mount Carmel Academy), Katie Kampen (2014-15 & 2013-14, Mount Carmel Academy), Katherine Broussard (2012-13, Metairie Park Country Day School), Haley Bonneval (2011-12, Fontainebleau High School), Katie Lindelow (2010-11, Mandeville High School), Hannah Miranda (2009-10, Northlake Christian School), Kathryn Stock (2008-09, E.D. White Catholic High School) and Caitlin Clarke (2007-08, Mount Carmel Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Holzman 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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