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**GREELY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE 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 Kayley Cimino of Greely High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year. Cimino is the third Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Greely 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 Cimino as Maine'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, Cimino 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-9 senior setter and right side hitter led the Rangers to a 17-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Cimino recorded 180 kills, 124 assists, 82 service aces and 23 blocks. The Maine Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Year, she is a three-time First Team All-State selection.

Cimino has raised funds to benefit ALS research and has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and youth volleyball programs. "Kayley Cimino is the most well-rounded player in the state," said Molly Northway, head coach at Falmouth High. "She's one of the best setters I've seen in years, and a powerhouse of a hitter. Her mental game is strong too, and her strategy is phenomenal."

Cimino has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will attend Springfield College in the fall, where she will play volleyball.

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.

Cimino joins recent Gatorade Maine Volleyball Players of the Year Jocelyn Moody (2015-16, Biddeford High School), Sarah Shelton (2014-15, Ellsworth High School), Katrina Meserve (2013-14, Falmouth High School), Mariah Hebert (2012-13, Biddeford High School), Brittany Bona (2011-12, Scarborough High School), Keila Grigware (2010-11, Biddeford High School), Michaela Campbell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Greely High School) and Mariah Grover (2007-08, Mount Desert Island High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Cimino 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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