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**BARNSTABLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Riley James of Barnstable High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year. James is the eighth Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barnstable 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 James as Massachusetts'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, James joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlerd 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-10 sophomore outside hitter led the Red Raiders to a 26-1 record and the Division 1 state championship this past season. James tallied 518 kills, 217 digs and 42 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .471 and a hitting percentage of .347. The Boston Globe Division 1 Player of the Year, James is a two-time Boston Globe and Boston Herald All-Scholastic. She concluded her sophomore year with 811 total kills in her prep volleyball career.

A member of the Spanish National Honor Society, James has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach. "Riley makes the game look easy," said Joe Reardon, head coach of Bishop Feehan High. "She is a complete player with a high volleyball IQ. She can attack from anywhere on the court and get the kill."

James has maintained an A average 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.

James joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Players of the Year Corinne Cox (2015-16 & 2014-15, Notre Dame Academy), Julia Flynn (2013-14, Notre Dame Academy), Cassidy Stankowski (2012-13 & 2011-12, Frontier Regional School), Maura Manley (2010-11, New Bedford High School), Morgan Thatcher (2009-10, Brockton High School), Caitlin Barrett (2008-09, Medfield High School) and Mina Baban (2007-08, Westborough High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, James 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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