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**CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Lauren Hatch of Concord High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Player of the Year. Hatch is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Concord 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 Hatch as New Hampshire'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, Hatch 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-1 senior middle blocker tallied 361 kills and 126 digs this past season, leading the Crimson Tide (21-3) to the Division I state championship match. The New Hampshire Volleyball Coaches Association's 2016 Division I Player of the Year, Hatch also recorded 62 blocks and 30 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .526 and a hitting percentage of .392. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,051 kills.

A member of the Concord High Leadership Committee, Hatch has volunteered locally as part of area food drives and with an elementary school literacy-outreach program. "You made game plans to try to avoid Lauren and limit the amount of touches she could have," said John Roemer, head coach of Salem High. "And she still had a huge impact. Without her, Concord would not have been the team they were this year."

Hatch has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hatch joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Players of the Year Jo Coffey (2015-16, Merrimack High School), Jen Coffey (2014-15, Merrimack High School), Molly Wotton (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dover High School), Kelsey Berry (2011-12, Hollis Brookline High School), Katie Schwarz (2010-11, Londonderry High School), Maria Kuehl (2009-10, Farmington High School), Amanda Saab (2008-09, Salem High School) and Lauren Laquerre (2007-08, Concord High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Hatch 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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