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**EDMOND MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Alli Evans of Edmond Memorial High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year. Evans is the fourth Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Edmond Memorial 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 Evans as Oklahoma'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, Evans 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 outside hitter led the Bulldogs to a 31-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Evans tallied 350 kills, 433 digs, 60 blocks and 42 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .432 and a hitting percentage of .357. A MaxPreps Third Team All-American, Evans was the state tournament MVP. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,091 kills and 1,220 digs.

The secretary of her senior class, Evans completed a two-week service-mission trip to East Asia in 2016. She has volunteered locally as a freshman mentor and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group. "Alli Evans has been the No. 1 factor for Memorial's success," said Lisa Polcovich, head coach of Deer Creek High. "They are a different team without her on the court."

Evans has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Tulsa 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.

Evans joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Rose Frohling (2015-16, Edmond North High School), Audrey Alford (2014-15, Norman North High School), Josie Gandall (2013-14, Bishop Kelley High School), Claire Kelley (2012-13, Bishop Kelley High School), Inky Ajanaku (2011-12, Bishop Kelley High School), Micha Hancock (2010-11 & 2009-10, Edmond Memorial High School), Amy Lewis (2008-09, Bishop Kelley High School) and Kelsey Hancock (2007-08, Edmond Memorial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Evans 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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