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**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Kathryn Decker of Jesuit High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year. Decker is the fifth Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Decker as Oregon'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, Decker 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-4 senior outside hitter and right-side hitter tallied 396 kills and 381 digs this past season, leading the Crusaders (35-1) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals. Decker also recorded 45 blocks and 36 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .475 and a hitting percentage of .353. A First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 925 kills.

Decker has volunteered locally with a homelessness advocacy group and served a mission trip to Nicaragua where she helped build a schoolhouse. She has also donated her time as a school ambassador and to the YMCA of Greater Seattle. "Kathryn is a threat from every position and hitting from anywhere in the front row," said Carol Lambert, head coach of Southridge High. "Her command of her shot selection is what makes her so dominant."

Decker has maintained a weighted 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Santa Clara 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.

Decker joins recent Gatorade Oregon Volleyball Players of the Year Nicole Peterson (2015-16, Jesuit High School), Payton Rund (2014-15, West Albany High School), Hannah Troutman (2013-14, Crook County High School), Tani Stephens (2012-13, West Albany High School), Martenne Bettendorf (2011-12, Central Catholic High School), Elizabeth Brenner (2010-11, Jesuit High School), Liz Brenner (2009-10, Jesuit High School), Garyn Schlatter (2008-09, Canby High School) and Kim Hill (2007-08, Portland Christian High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Decker 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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