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**FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Haley Warner of Fayetteville High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Warner is the third Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 Warner as Arkansas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Warner 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 state's 2014-15 Gatorade Player of the Year as a freshman, the 6-foot-2 senior right-side hitter led the Bulldogs to a 27-11 record and a fourth straight Class 7A state championship this past season. Warner amassed 669 kills, 232 digs, 211 assists, 82 blocks and 29 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .513 and a hitting percentage of .344. A MaxPreps First Team All-American selection, Warner was the 2016 and 2017 State Tournament MVP. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,089 kills.

A member of the National Arts Honor Society, Warner has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach. "Haley was absolutely unstoppable in the postseason," said Julie Rowan, head coach of Bentonville West High. "She was a huge threat all the way around the court. Her back-row attacks were nearly as lethal as her front-row attacks."

Warner has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Warner joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Players of the Year Ella May Powell (2016-17 & 2015-16, Fayetteville High School), Haley Warner (2014-15, Fayetteville High School), Drew Jones (2013-14, SoutHigh Schoolide High School), Aubrey Edie (2012-13, Fayetteville High School), Shayne Wiedemann (2011-12, Bentonville High School), Lizzy Briones (2010-11, Siloam Springs High School), Hannah Allison (2009-10 & 2008-09, Siloam Springs High School), and Cayla Fielder (2007-08, Westside High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Warner 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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