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**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA 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 Madi Kubik of Valley High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. Kubik is the first Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley 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 Kubik as Iowa'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, Kubik 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 junior outside hitter recorded 544 kills, 247 digs, 34 service aces and 33 blocks this past season, leading the Tigers to the Class 5A state finals. A member of the U.S. Girls Youth National Team, Kubik was selected to the Elite All-State Team and was named the Class 5A Player of the Year.

Kubik has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Meals From the Heartland and youth volleyball camps. "By the end of the season, Kubik was unstoppable, just lights out," said Mary Beth Wiskus, head coach at Dowling Catholic High. "She's a real six-rotation player who can play outside, middle and back, and she was dominating at state. She was able to bring that team together."

Kubik has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Kubik joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Mackenzie May (2016-17, Wahlert Catholic High School), Carlee Ketchum (2015-16, West Delaware High School), Mikaela Foecke (2014-15 & 2013-14, Holy Trinity Catholic High School), Alexis Conaway (2012-13, MOC-Floyd Valley High School), Megan Gilbert (2011-12, Tripoli High School), Ali Stark (2010-11, Mt. Vernon High School), Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford), Chelsey Semprini (2008-09, Ankeny High School) and Brittany Ridenour (2007-08, Abraham Lincoln High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kubik 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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