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**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Olivia Curtis of Christian Heritage Academy as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year. Curtis is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christian Heritage Academy.

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 Curtis 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, Curtis 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 5-foot-11 junior outside hitter led the Crusaders to a 35-4 record and a fourth straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Curtis amassed 602 kills, 419 digs, 42.5 blocks and 31 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .395. A two-time Class 4A State Tournament MVP who averaged more than five kills per set, she concluded her junior year with career totals of 1,301 kills and 1,257 digs.

A member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society, Curtis has completed a service-mission trip to Honduras. She has volunteered locally at a camp for children with disabilities and has donated her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Olivia Curtis is a stud," said Deidra Rader, head coach of Lincoln Christian High. "Christian Heritage is a solid program every year, but Olivia is their X factor. She is effective from every part of the court."

Curtis has maintained a 3.88 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.

Curtis joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Players of the Year Alli Evans (2016-17, Edmond Memorial High School), 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, Curtis 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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