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**EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 McKenna Melville of Eagan High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year. Melville is the second Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagan 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 Melville as Minnesota'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, Melville joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler 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 recorded 416 kills and 290 digs this past season, leading the Wildcats (30-2) to the Class AAA state championship match. Melville also notched 55 blocks, 47 assists and 34 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .491 and a hitting percentage of .399. A natural libero, Melville is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,182 digs and 834 kills.

Melville has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children, and she has donated her time with Eagan's Link Program and as a youth volleyball coach. "McKenna is an amazing six-rotation player and impacts her team so much on both the offensive and defensive end," said Greg Ueland, head coach of Roseville High. "She is absolutely one of the most versatile players I have ever seen play in Minnesota high school volleyball."

Melville has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Central 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.

Melville joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year Sydney Hilley (2016-17 & 2015-16, Champlin Park High School), Samantha Seliger Swenson (2014-15, Hopkins High School), Taylr McNeil (2013-14, Eagan High School), Sarah Wilhite (2012-13 & 2011-12, Eden Prairie High School), Kellie McNeil (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Ashley Wittman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Shakopee High School), and Jennifer Lopez (2007-08, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Melville 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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