

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**PADUA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Emily Jarome of Padua Academy as its 2017-18 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Jarome is the second Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Padua 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 Jarome as Delaware'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, Jarome 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 senior outside hitter recorded 383 kills, 245 digs, 43 service aces and 34 blocks this past season, leading the Pandas (18-1) to the state final. Jarome has twice been named Player of the Year by the Delaware Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association and finished her prep career with 1,166 kills, which is believed to be a state record.

A devoted member of her church youth ministry, Jarome has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball clinics and Safety Town, a program teaching safety to children ages six and under. "Emily Jarome is just an outstanding volleyball player," said Susan Heiss, head coach at Ursuline Academy. "She's a very powerful hitter and a smart hitter, but she's also a six-position player who plays good defense. She's a force to contend with on the court."

Jarome has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Towson University 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.

Jarome joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Sydney Fulton (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Delaware Military Academy), Abbie Mirabella (2013-14, St. Mark's High School), Lauren Kerrigan (2012-13 & 2011-12, Wilmington Friends School), Kelly Perillo (2010-11, Charter School of Wilmington), Mariah Henley (2009-10, Ursuline Academy), Nikki Kinnier (2008-09, Saint Mark's) and Meghan Bonk (2007-08, Ursuline Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jarome 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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