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GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Tessa Wyner of George Washington High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Wyner is the third Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from George Washington 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 Wyner as West Virginia'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, Wyner 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 senior outside hitter amassed 530 kills, 268 digs, 173 blocks and 82 service aces this past season, leading the Patriots (58-2-3) to the Class AAA quarterfinals. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Wyner was selected Player of the Year by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and was named captain of the Class AAA All-State Team.

Wyner has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, recycling initiatives and a winter coat drive. "Tessa Wyner is the complete volleyball player," said Matt Sauvage, head coach at Greenbrier East High. "She reads the game very well, she's a great blocker and hitter and she has a really strong work ethic. She elevates everyone around her to play better."

Wyner has maintained a weighted 4.71 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Three-time winner Wyner joins Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Taylor Lord (2014-15 & 2013-14, Musselman High School), Hannah Shreve (2012-13, George Washington High School), Taylor Allen (2011-12, Musselman High School), Hannah Bailey (2010-11, Spring Valley High School), Lexy Kessel (2009-10, Ripley High School), Erica Manor (2008-09, Musselman High School) and Cameron Yoho (2007-08, Tyler Consolidated High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Wyner 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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