

**LEWIS-PALMER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced McKenna Sciacca of Lewis-Palmer High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year. Sciacca is the third Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lewis-Palmer 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 Sciacca as Colorado'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, Sciacca joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler High School, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public High School, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.).

The 5-foot-11 senior setter led the Rangers to a 28-1 record and their third consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. Sciacca recorded 829 assists, 246 digs, 64 service aces and 39 blocks. The Class 4A Player of the Year, she was also named a PrepVolleyball.com All-American.

Sciacca has assisted in an elementary school classroom and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball programs. "Sciacca is on a very good team, but with her, they're a great team," said Rob Graham, head coach at Grandview High School. "She ran such an incredibly fast offense perfectly, and she was also great blocking and hit the ball efficiently."

Sciacca has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Northern Colorado 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.

Sciacca joins recent Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year Keeley Davis (2017-18, Rock Canyon High School), Michaela Putnicki (2016-17, Lewis-Palmer High School), Shannon Webb (2015-16, Cherokee Trail High School), Alexa Smith (2014-15, Lewis-Palmer High School), and Haleigh Washington (2013-14, Doherty High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Sciacca has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).