

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Lauren Antonucci of St. John's College High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year. Antonucci is the sixth Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Antonucci as District of Columbia'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, Antonucci joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert Hight 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-9 senior setter led the Cadets to a 24-8 record and the DCSAA tournament championship this past season. Antonucci amassed 850 assists, 195 digs, 78 kills, 78 service aces and 32 blocks. A First Team All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selection and a Washington Post First Team All-Met honoree, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,283 assists, 969 digs and 361 digs.

Antonucci has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Lauren was their leader and the reason St. John's did so well," said Dave Geiser, head coach of the Academy of the Holy Cross. "Lauren ran the offense and is a fierce competitor."

Antonucci has maintained a weighted 4.60 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Antonucci joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Players of the Year Rebecca Frye (2017-18 & 2016-17, St. John's College High School), Jeanne Westney (2015-16, St. John's College High School), Evelyn Gray (2014-15, Maret School), and Becca Bateman (2013-14, St. John's College High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Antonucci 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.