

**OVIDEO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Savannah Vach of Oviedo High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year. Vach is the second Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oviedo 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 Vach as Florida'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, Vach joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert 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-10 senior setter and right-side hitter led the Lions to a 28-4 record and the Class 9A state championship this past season. Vach recorded 516 assists, 417 kills, 348 digs and 55 blocks. The Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Volleyball and Class 9A Player of the Year, she was a 2018-19 Under Armour First Team All-American and was named to the national ALL-USA Volleyball First Team.

Vach has volunteered locally on behalf of Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation and youth volleyball programs. "Savannah Vach is a great all-around player," said Amanda Simmons, head coach at DeLand High. "She's got a great serve, plays good defense, and she's extremely smart on her sets, mixing things up with her teammates."

Vach has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Miami 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.

Vach joins recent Gatorade Florida Volleyball Players of the Year Marlie Monserez (2017-18, Bishop Moore Catholic High School), Stephanie Samedy (2016-17, East Ridge High School), Jac'cara Walker (2015-16, P.K. Yonge), Courtney Furlong (2014-15, Oviedo High School), and Christina Ambrose (2013-14, Winter Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Vach 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.