

## **VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 Madi Kubik of Valley High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. Kubik is the first Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley 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 Kubik as Iowa'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, Kubik 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 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter recorded 523 kills, 274 digs, 40 aces and 29 blocks this past season, leading the Tigers (41-4) to the Class 5A semifinals. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Kubik was the East MVP at the 2018-19 Under Armour All-America Match. The Iowa Girls Coaches Association Player of the Year, she was a member of the U.S. Women's Junior National Team and was named to the national ALL-USA Volleyball First Team.

Kubik has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Meals From the Heartland, Habitat for Humanity and youth volleyball camps. "Madi Kubik has just been dominant every time I've seen her," said Mary Beth Wiskus, head coach at Dowling Catholic High School. "She's a six-rotation player who can hit shots from the front row or the back row that are just unstoppable. She's a great all-around player."

Kubik has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Two-time winner Kubik joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Madi Kubik (2017-18, Valley High School), Mackenzie May (2016-17, Wahlert Catholic High School), Carlee Ketchum (2015-16, West Delaware High School), and Mikaela Foecke (2014-15 & 2013-14, Holy Trinity Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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