

**SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Leah Creteau of Spaulding High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Player of the Year. Creteau is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spaulding 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 Creteau as New Hampshire'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, Creteau 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-7 senior outside hitter compiled 294 kills and 274 digs this past season, leading the Red Raiders (16-5) to the Division I state semifinals. Creteau also recorded 44 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .385. Also the New Hampshire Volleyball Coaches Association's 2018 Division I Player of the Year, Creteau is a two-time First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 744 kills and 686 digs.

A member of the Spaulding High student council, Creteau has volunteered locally at the Monarch School, a day school for children and young adults with physical, medical or developmental challenges. "Leah can score from both the front and back row," said Matt Leonard, head coach of Londonderry High. "She was so important to her team."

Creteau has maintained a 3.70 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.

Creteau joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Volleyball Players of the Year Maddie Norris (2017-18, Hollis-Brookline High School), Lauren Hatch (2016-17, Concord High School), Jo Coffey (2015-16, Merrimack High School), Jen Coffey (2014-2015, Merrimack High School), and Molly Wotton (2013-14, Dover High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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