

**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Olivia Curtis of Christian Heritage Academy as its 2018-19 Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year. Curtis is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christian Heritage Academy.

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 Curtis as Oklahoma'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, Curtis 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter slammed a state-record 711 kills, posting a kill percentage of .381, and compiled 478 digs this past season, leading the Crusaders (34-5) to the Class 4A state championship match. Curtis also tallied 34 service aces and 26 blocks. A three-time All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,012 kills and 1,735 digs.

A member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, Curtis is the Christian Heritage student council vice president. She completed a service-mission trip to Honduras and has donated her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Olivia was the most dominant player that we played against this year," said Dan Donohue, head coach of Victory Christian High. "Her leadership on the court and her ability to earn a point from anywhere on the court were the two things that made her so dangerous."

Curtis has maintained a weighted 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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 Curtis joins Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Players of the Year Alli Evans (2016-17, Edmond Memorial High School), Hannah Rose Frohling (2015-16, Edmond North High School), Audrey Alford (2014-15, Norman North High School), and Josie Gandall (2013-14, Bishop Kelley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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