

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Lily Bartling of Washington High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Bartling is the second Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington 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 Bartling as South Dakota'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, Bartling 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 6-foot senior outside hitter recorded 423 kills, posting a kill percentage of .376, along with 403 digs this past season, leading the Warriors (30-6) to the Class AA state championship match. Bartling also compiled 44 blocks and 42 service aces. A three-time First Team All-Conference selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 959 kills and 855 digs.

Bartling has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Lily is the kind of player every coach wants and every team needs," said Emily Palmer, head coach of Lincoln High School. "She's solid in all areas of the game, which is becoming less common. She always finds a way to get the job done."

Bartling has maintained a weighted 3.81 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.

Bartling joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Avery Thorson (2017-18, Harrisburg High School), Sami Slaughter (2016-17, Harrisburg High School), Jenna Reiff (2015-16, Chester High School), Taryn Kloth (2014-15, O'Gorman High School), and Maggie DeJong (2013-14, Roosevelt High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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