

**WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Bryce Knapp of Woodrow Wilson High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year. Knapp is the first Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodrow Wilson 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 Knapp as West Virginia'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, Knapp 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 5-foot-8 senior outside hitter amassed 682 kills and 735 digs to go with 111 service aces and 61 blocks this past season, leading the Flying Eagles (37-16-6) to the Class AAA semifinals. Captain of the Class AAA All-State Team, Knapp was a three-time First Team All-State selection and was also named the Mountain State Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

Knapp has participated in multiple service-mission trips with her church and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth summer camps. "Bryce Knapp is one of the players I most enjoy watching," said Pasadeanna Aukusitino, head coach at Capital High School. "She's humble, a hard hitter and a great defensive player, both at the net and in the back row. She's a true leader too, always communicating with her teammates."

Knapp has maintained a 4.33 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.

Knapp joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Tessa Wyner (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, George Washington High School), and Taylor Lord (2014-15 & 2013-14, Musselman High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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