

**CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Madeline Matheny of Charter School of Wilmington as its 2018-19 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Matheny is the second Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Charter School of Wilmington.

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 Matheny as Delaware'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, Matheny 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-1 senior outside hitter led the Force to a 17-2 record and the program's first state championship this past season. Matheny recorded 283 kills, 232 digs and 38 service aces. The first player in school history to record 1,000 career kills, she was a four-time All-State selection.

Matheny has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth summer camp and a freshman tutoring program. "Madeline Matheny is one of the most talented players I've seen come out of Delaware," said Jessica Weller, head coach at Newark Charter High. "She's a six-rotation player over six-feet tall and she has textbook technique. Her domination at the net is what everyone sees, but her backcourt movement and ability to read and defend is more like a libero. It's rare to see that all in one package."

Matheny has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Quinnipiac University 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.

Matheny joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Emily Jarome (2017-18, Padua Academy), Sydney Fulton (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Delaware Military Academy), and Abbie Mirabella (2013-14, St. Mark's High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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