

**PLAINFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Taylor Landfair of Plainfield Central High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year. Landfair is the first Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Plainfield Central 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 Landfair as Illinois'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, Landfair 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 6-foot-4 junior outside hitter slammed 515 kills and recorded 249 digs this past season, leading the Wildcats (27-9) to the Class 4A Lockport Township Regional championship game. Landfair also totalled 44 blocks and 43 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .467 and a hitting percentage of .341. A member of the USA Volleyball Under-18 Youth National Team, she concluded her junior year with 1,109 kills and 564 digs in her prep volleyball career.

Landfair has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children, and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "Taylor was the best hitter in our area and in the state," said Carrie Prosek, head coach of Minooka High School. "Besides being 6-4, she also has an amazing vertical [leap] and is very athletic. She was the most dominant hitter we ran across."

Landfair has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota beginning in the fall of 2020.

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.

Landfair joins recent Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Players of the Year Mica Allison (2017-18, The High School of Saint Thomas More), Charley Niego (2016-17, Mother McAuley High School), Molly Haggerty (2015-16 & 2014-15, St. Francis High School), and Ali Frantti (2013-14, Richmond-Burton Community High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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