

**BARNSTABLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Riley James of Barnstable High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year. James is the ninth Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barnstable 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 James as Massachusetts'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, James 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior outside hitter recorded 435 kills and 193 digs this past season, leading the Red Raiders (23-1) to the Division 1 state championship match. James also tallied 43 service aces while posting a .559 kill percentage and a .456 hitting percentage. An American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection, James was also the Boston Globe Division 1 Player of the Year. She concluded her prep volleyball career with a state-record 1,729 kills along with 889 digs.

An intern with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, James has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach. "Riley is an amazing player," said Rachel Lassey, head coach of Dartmouth High School. "She can crush a ball anywhere on the court. Not only is she strong offensively, she's also a beast on defense."

James has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Bryant 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.

Two-time winner James joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Players of the Year Emma Smallcomb (2017-18, Westborough High School), Corinne Cox (2015-16 & 2014-15, Notre Dame Academy), and Julia Flynn (2013-14, Notre Dame Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," James 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).