

**BYRON NELSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Paige Flickinger of Byron Nelson High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year. Flickinger is the first Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Byron Nelson 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 Flickinger as Texas'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, Flickinger 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 5-foot-10 junior outside hitter recorded 550 kills, 604 digs, 62 blocks and 34 aces this past season, leading the Bobcats (42-2) to the Class 6A regional quarterfinals and a No. 5 national ranking by PrepVolleyball.com. The Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 5A/6A Player of the Year and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Offensive Player of the Year, she was named a PrepVolleyball.com All-American and a MaxPreps First Team All-American.

Flickinger has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball programs. "Paige Flickinger is one of the most talented kids I've coached against, mentally and physically," said Danielle Barker, head coach at Marcus High School. "She isn't the size of typical outside hitters, but she plays as though she's the biggest kid on the court. She can hit just about every shot possible and she's very good at targeting your weaknesses."

Flickinger has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Flickinger joins recent Gatorade Texas Volleyball Players of the Year Adanna Rollins (2017-18, Hebron High School), Kylee McLaughlin (2016-17, Hebron High School), Morgyn Greer (2015-16, Dripping Springs High School), Alyssa Enneking (2014-15, Clear Falls High School), and Courtney Eckenrode (2013-14, The Woodlands High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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