

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 13, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Annie Cate Fitzpatrick of Trinity Catholic High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year**. Fitzpatrick is the first Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Catholic 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 Fitzpatrick as Florida'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, Fitzpatrick 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-1 senior outside hitter recorded 425 kills, 250 digs, 56 blocks and 31 service aces this past season, leading the Celtics (23-7) to the Class 3A semifinals. The Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Volleyball and Class 3A Player of the Year, Fitzpatrick was a 2019-20 Under Armour First Team All-American and was selected First Team All-County four times.

Fitzpatrick has served as a peer tutor in her school and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Children's Miracle Network and youth sports camps. "Annie Cate Fitzpatrick is one of the most dynamic and complete players that I've seen in my years of coaching," said Randy Ewers, head coach at Vanguard High. "She's the type of player who would put the team on her back and completely change the dynamic of a match with a couple of swings."

Fitzpatrick has maintained a weighted 4.52 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Penn State 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.

Fitzpatrick joins recent Gatorade Florida Volleyball Players of the Year Savannah Vach (2018-19, Oviedo High School), Marlie Monserez (2017-18, Bishop Moore Catholic High School), Stephanie Samedy (2016-17, East Ridge High School), Jac'cara Walker (2015-16, P.K. Yonge), Courtney Furlong (2014-15, Oviedo High School), and Christina Ambrose (2013-14, Winter Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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