

**SAINT MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 13, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Julia Yurkovich** of **Saint Mark's High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year**. Yurkovich is the seventh Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Mark's 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 court, distinguishes Yurkovich 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, Yurkovich joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School, Calif.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.), Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Spartans to a 17-2 record and the state championship match this past season. Yurkovich recorded 298 kills, averaging 4.9 per set, to go with 165 digs, 22 aces and 11 blocks. A Delaware High School Volleyball Coaches Association First-Team All-State for the third straight year, she was also that organization's Player of the Year.

A National Honor Society member, Yurkovich has volunteered locally at the Faithful Friends No-Kill Animal Shelter, caring for cats waiting to be adopted. She also has donated her time to the Marydale Retirement Village fall cleanup, as well as the Easter Seals Volleyball Challenge, which raises money to support individuals with special needs in Delaware. "We planned our whole defense and blocking scheme around her and still were not able to stop her," said Newark Charter Senior High School head coach Jessica Weller. "She is a smart player and can tear apart your entire team. This year, I don't believe there was any player close to Julia."

Yurkovich has maintained a 4.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Presbyterian College (S.C.) 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Yurkovich joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Brenya Reid (2021-22, Sussex Central High School), Raychel Ehlers (2020-21, Indian River High School), Savannah Seemans (2019-20, Saint Mark's High School), and Madeline Matheny (2018-19, Charter School of Wilmington), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).