## DELMARVA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (January 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Elaina Millaway** of **Delmarva Christian High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year**. Millaway is the first Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Delmarva Christian High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Millaway as Delaware's best high school volleyball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Ca.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Ca.) and Ayden Ames (2023-24, Prosper High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-8 senior outside hitter led the Royals (9-8) to the second round of the state tournament this past season, recording 349 kills and 211 digs in the process. Millaway was named the Delaware High School Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Year as well as First Team All-State. She added 54 aces, 15 assists and 11 blocks on the year.

Millaway has volunteered locally with multiple charity volleyball tournaments, including one that benefits the SL24: Unlocke the Light Foundation, which offers youth mental health support programs. She has also donated her time to the Jolly Volley Toy Drive, benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "Elaina Millaway is a six-rotation outside who hits pretty much every third ball for her team," said Jessica Weller, Newark Charter Senior High School head coach. "She keeps them in every match because of her ability to pass perfectly out of serve-receive and see the court to get the kill. She can pound the ball, tip to any position and has a dominant serve."

Millaway has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play beach volleyball at Florida Gulf Coast 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Millaway joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Anna Richardson (2023-24, Smyrna High School), Julia Yurkovich (2022-23, Saint Mark's High School), Brenya Reid (2021-22, Sussex Central High School) and Raychel Ehlers (2020-21, Indian River High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.