
For More Information, Contact:

Nick Senger, Activities Director/Associate Principal
Ashwaubenon High School
920-492-2955, ext.5333
nsenger@ashwaubenonk12.org

ASHWAUBENON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE MADDIE KOCH NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Chicago (January 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Maddie Koch of Ashwaubenon High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year. Koch is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ashwaubenon 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 Koch as Wisconsin’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, Koch 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-2 senior outside hitter recorded 530 kills and 299 digs this past season, leading the Jaguars (30-8) to the WIAA Division 1, Section 2 Tournament semifinals. Koch also tallied 56 service aces and 43 blocks, posting a kill percentage of .512 and a hitting percentage of .345. An American Volleyball Coaches Association Third Team All-American selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,354 kills and 703 digs.

A member of the Ashwaubenon High School student council, Koch has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach, and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. Activities Director/Associate Principal Nick Senger said, “Maddie is one of the best student-athletes to come through our doors and make a difference at Ashwaubenon High School. Not only is she a highly gifted volleyball player, but she is a great teammate and leader in our school.” “Maddie was a phenomenal offensive threat,” said Bethany Barber, head coach of Appleton East High School. Maddie hit the best I’ve coached against in 10 years. Her offensive swing from the back row was effective as well.”

Koch has maintained a weighted 4.07 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Purdue 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. Koch joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Players of the Year Brooke Andersen (2017-18, Lake Country Lutheran High School), Mariah Whalen (2016-17, Newman Catholic High School), M.E. Dodge (2015-16, East Troy High School), Carly Townsend (2014-15, Germantown High School), and Simone Lee (2013-14, Menomonee Falls High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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