

**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA 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 Hahni Johnson of Dimond High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year. Johnson is the sixth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Johnson as Alaska'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, Johnson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler 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-9 junior setter and outside hitter led the Lynx to a 48-4 record and a fourth-straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Johnson amassed 712 assists and 388 digs to go with 158 kills, 92 service aces and 52 blocks. A two-time member of the Class 4A All-Tournament Team, she concluded her junior year with 1,623 assists and 917 digs in her prep volleyball career.

A violinist since fourth grade, Johnson organized and performed at a fundraising concert for the Dimond volleyball team, and she has also played at weddings and funerals. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Hahni was a force in all aspects of the game," said Amy Mestas, head coach of South High. "It is exceptionally rare to see a setter who is also one of the top passers, attackers, blockers and servers on the team."

Johnson, who is home-schooled, has maintained a 3.73 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Zoey Keene (2017-18, South Anchorage High School), Brynn Sulte (2016-17 & 2015-16, Dimond High School), Kayla Sims (2014-15, South Anchorage High School), and Leah Swiss (2013-14, Dimond High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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