

BRANDON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Callie Minshew of Brandon High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year. Minshew is the first Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Brandon 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 Minshew as Mississippi'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, Minshew 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-11 senior outside hitter led the Bulldogs to a 34-7 record and their second consecutive Class III state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Volleyball Player of the Year, Minshew recorded 632 kills, 388 digs, 78 service aces and 46 blocks. A three-time All-State selection, she was named a PrepVolleyball.com All-American and a 2018-19 Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American.

A devoted member of her church community, Minshew has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement home, a soup kitchen, food-donation drives for the needy and youth volleyball programs. "There's no one else at Callie Minshew's level," said Margaret Falatko, head coach at DeSoto Central High. "She's a consistent player in the front and back rows, and she played a phenomenal match in the state championship."

Minshew has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Mississippi 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.

Two-time winner Minshew joins Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Players of the Year Emma Funk (2016-17, Our Lady Academy), Conley Chinn (2015-16, Jackson Academy), Blake Mohler (2014-15, Ocean Springs High School), and Brittany Corder (2013-14, Our Lady Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

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