

## **LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tasia Farmer of Lone Peak High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year. Farmer is the second Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lone Peak 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 Farmer as Utah'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, Farmer 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 senior outside hitter led the Knights to a 26-6 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Farmer slammed 510 kills to go with 307 digs, 60 aces and 42 blocks. A 2018-19 Under Armour Second Team All-American, she was named Ms. Volleyball by the Deseret News. Farmer was also selected as a PrepVolleyball.com All-American and a MaxPreps Second Team All-American.

A devoted member of her church youth group, Farmer has volunteered locally feeding families in need and coaching youth volleyball players. "Tasia Farmer has a heavy arm and she passes, serves and plays defense at a high level," said Silver Fonua, head coach at Copper Hills High School. "In my opinion, she's the best pin hitter in the state of Utah, and she's the best all-around player we faced."

Farmer has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of California-Santa Barbara 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.

Farmer joins recent Gatorade Utah Volleyball Players of the Year Heather Gneiting (2017-18, Pleasant Grove High School), Dani Barton (2016-17, Brighton High School), Jaiden Farr (2015-16, Morgan High School), Alexsa Parker (2014-15, Snow Canyon High School), and Jessie Jorgensen (2013-14, Timpview High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Farmer 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).