

DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 13, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Hahni Johnson of Dimond High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year**. Johnson is the fifth 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, 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-9 senior setter and outside hitter compiled 712 assists, 300 digs and 221 kills this past season, leading the Lynx (34-10-3) to a third-place finish at the Class 4A state tournament. Johnson also tallied 93 service aces and 46 blocks. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,335 assists and 1,217 digs.

A section leader in the Dimond High Swing Choir, Johnson has also been a violinist since fourth grade. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and referee, and has donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Hahni Johnson has the highest volleyball IQ of any high schooler I've coached in 10 years," said Taylor Dibiasio, head coach of Eagle River High and Johnson's club coach with Midnight Sun Volleyball Club. "She is one of Alaska's best setters ever."

Johnson, who is home-schooled, has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 Johnson joins 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.

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