

## **CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE COLORADO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 13, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Julianna Dalton of Chaparral High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year**. Dalton is the third Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chaparral 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 Dalton as Colorado'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, Dalton 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-5 senior outside hitter led the Wolverines to a 27-2 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Dalton recorded 313 kills, 289 digs, 90 blocks and 76 service aces. The Class 5A Player of the Year, she was also a 2019-20 Under Armour Second Team Team All-American.

A devoted member of her church youth group, Dalton has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home. "Julianna Dalton can impact the game in multiple ways," said Scott Dowis, head coach at Castle View High. "She's obviously a great attacker, but she's also a tremendous blocker and server. She was the emotional leader of her team."

Dalton has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Washington 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.

Dalton joins recent Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year McKenna Sciacca (2018 – 19, Lewis-Palmer High School), Keeley Davis (2017-18, Rock Canyon High School), Michaela Putnicki (2016-17, Lewis-Palmer High School), Shannon Webb (2015-16, Cherokee Trail High School), Alexa Smith (2014-15, Lewis-Palmer High School), and Haleigh Washington (2013-14, Doherty High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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