

BONNEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Makayla Sorensen of Bonneville High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year**. Sorensen is the first Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bonneville 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 Sorensen as Idaho'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, Sorensen 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 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter led the Bees to a 38-6 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Sorensen piled up 525 kills, 433 digs, 44 blocks and 38 service aces, posting a hitting percentage of .439. The High Country Conference Player of the Year, she is a three-time All-State selection and was named a 2019-20 Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American.

A devoted member of her church's youth group, Sorensen has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Makayla Sorensen is an extremely talented athlete and a great leader," said Kaitlyn Zarpentine, head coach at Idaho Falls High School. "She played all the way around and was a big factor in the back row as well as outside. I'm impressed with her volleyball IQ and composure."

Sorensen has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Weber State University in Utah 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.

Sorensen joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Zoe Thiros (2018 – 19, Century High School), Dani Nay (2017-18 & 2016-17, Skyview High School), Maya Taylor (2015-16, Idaho Falls High School), and Kayla Ellis (2014-15 & 2013-14, Century High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

##