

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Anna DeBeer of Assumption High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year**. DeBeer is the thirteenth Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 DeBeer as Kentucky'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, DeBeer 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-11 senior outside hitter led the Rockets to a 36-7 record and the state championship along with a No. 11 national ranking as rated by PrepVolleyball.com. DeBeer recorded 409 kills, 287 digs, 27 service aces and 27 blocks. Kentucky's Ms. Volleyball, she was selected a 2019-20 Under Armour First Team All-American and a First Team MaxPreps All-American.

DeBeer has volunteered locally on behalf of Blackacre Conservancy, the Kentucky Humane Society, a senior living facility and youth volleyball programs. "Anna DeBeer really stands out," said Dale Grupe, head coach at Henry Clay High School. "She's a strong, six-rotational player and every time a team would get Assumption on the ropes, she would make big plays to get them past it. She played with an injury down the stretch and still dominated, big time."

DeBeer has maintained a 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

DeBeer joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Rylee Rader (2018 – 19 & 2017-18, Assumption High School), Paige Hammons (2016-17, Sacred Heart Academy), Morgan Hentz (2015-16, Notre Dame Academy), Merideth Jewell (2014-15, Mercy Academy), and Alexa Filley (2013-14, Assumption High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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