

EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Kennedi Orr of Eagan High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Orr is the third Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagan 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 Orr as Minnesota'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, Orr 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 6-foot junior setter and outside hitter compiled 405 assists, 242 kills and 204 digs this past season, leading the Wildcats (31-1) to the Class AAA state championship match. Orr also recorded 43 blocks and 32 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .477 and a hitting percentage of .414. Orr missed nine matches in the middle of the season while helping Team USA win a gold medal at the FIVB Girls U18 World Championships in Egypt. Orr was named the tournament's top setter. She concluded her junior year with 2,005 assists and 1,055 kills in her prep volleyball career.

Orr has volunteered locally with Spare Key, an organization that raises money for families with hospitalized children. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "I had the opportunity to watch Kennedi play a few times this year and was so impressed with her growth as a player," said Greg Ueland, head coach of Roseville High School. "Usually you don't notice substantial growth in elite players but it was very obvious this season that Kennedi made great gains to an already amazing and complete volleyball game."

Orr has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska beginning in the fall of 2021.

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 Orr joins Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year McKenna Melville (2017-18, Eagan High School), Sydney Hilley (2016-17 & 2015-16, Champlin Park High School), Samantha Seliger Swenson (2014-15, Hopkins High School), and Taylr McNeil (2013-14, Eagan High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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