

LOGAN-ROGERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Birdie Hendrickson of Logan-Rogersville High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year**. Hendrickson is the first Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Logan-Rogersville 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 Hendrickson as Missouri'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, Hendrickson 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-2 senior outside hitter compiled 483 kills and 352 digs this past season, leading the Wildcats (35-5-1) to the Class 3 state championship match. Hendrickson also tallied 60 blocks, 28 assists and 19 service aces while posting a .474 kill percentage and a .390 hitting percentage. A four-time First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,524 kills and 1,131 digs.

Hendrickson has volunteered locally with Missouri State Parks, and at a homeless shelter and food bank. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach and instructor. "In a sport that has several distinct positions, Birdie managed to be a dominant player at all of them," said Jarod Olson, head coach of Marshfield High School. "She obviously can hit, but her defense is outstanding and her setting ability is taking her to Florida, even though she wasn't used as her team's primary setter."

Hendrickson has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Two-time winner Hendrickson joins Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Gabby Blossom (2017-18, St. Joseph's Academy), Jena Otec (2016-17, St. Pius X High School), Meghan Donovan (2015-16, Villa Duchesne High School), Madison Duello (2014-15, Liberty High School), and Lily Johnson (2013-14, Lafayette High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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