

BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Jade Demps of Broughton High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year**. Demps is the first Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Broughton 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 Demps as North Carolina'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, Demps 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-2 senior outside hitter amassed a Class 4A state-record 627 kills to go with 204 digs this past season, leading the Caps (22-4) to the Class 4A state semifinals. Demps also recorded 35 service aces and 33 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .472 and a hitting percentage of .385. A member of the Youth National Training Team, Demps is a two-time North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association's State Player of the Year. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,651 kills and 677 digs.

A flutist and trombone player, Demps has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and as a youth volleyball instructor. "Jade was a one-woman wrecking machine as a hitter," said Philip Goodloe, head coach of Cary High School. "In my 16 years as a varsity coach, she is in the top three of all hitters I have faced."

Demps has maintained a weighted 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Demps joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Sydney Dowler (2018 – 19, Green Hope High School), Taylor Rowland (2017-18 & 2016-17, Cox Mill High School), Julia Scoles (2015-16, South Iredell High School), Katharine Franz (2014-15, Charlotte Country Day School), and Darian Mack (2013-14, Wakefield High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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