UTICA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 **Emily Londot of Utica High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Player of the Year.** Londot is the first Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Utica 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 Londot as Ohio'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, Londot 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-3 senior right-side hitter and middle blocker piled up 580 kills and 213 digs this past season, leading the Redskins (22-4) to the Division II regional quarterfinals. Londot also recorded 47 service aces and 43 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .537 and a hitting percentage of .447. She missed five matches in September while helping Team USA to a gold medal at the FIVB Girls U18 World Championships in Egypt. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,080 kills, which ranks second in state history.

The Utica High School Homecoming Queen, Londot has volunteered locally on behalf of elementary school literacy outreach programs in addition to serving as a youth volleyball and basketball coach, and also donates her time as a peer tutor. "Emily is one of the most dynamic volleyball players I have had the privilege to coach against," said Rex Carr, head coach of Northridge High School. "Emily can take over any game at any time both offensively and defensively.

Londot has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Ohio State University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Londot joins recent Gatorade Ohio Volleyball Players of the Year Riley Wagoner (2018 – 19, Dublin Coffman High School), Jonni Parker (2017-18, Miami East High School), Shannon Williams (2016-17, Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School), Hunter Atherton (2015-16, Dublin Coffman High School), Margo Wolf (2014-15, Mount Notre Dame High School), and Abby Detering (2013-14, Lake Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Londot 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 <u>www.twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.