

MILLER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Kadye Fernholz of Miller High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Fernholz is the first Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Miller 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 Fernholz as South Dakota'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, Fernholz 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-1 senior middle hitter amassed 576 kills and 437 digs this past season, leading the Rustlers (34-3) to the Class A state semifinals. Fernholz also recorded 79 blocks, 46 assists and 33 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .514 and a hitting percentage of .433. The Class A Player of the Year, Fernholz was an American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,024 kills and 1,270 digs.

Fernholz has volunteered locally at a food pantry and as a youth basketball and volleyball coach and referee. She has also donated her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Kadye is just so quick and her arm swing is very fast," said Kari Jung, head coach of Warner High School. "She was tough to read when she was attacking, too. I was also very impressed with her back-row [play] as she was great defensively."

Fernholz has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Kansas State University 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.

Fernholz joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Lily Bartling (2018 – 19, Washington High School), Avery Thorson (2017-18, Harrisburg High School), Sami Slaughter (2016-17, Harrisburg High School), Jenna Reiff (2015-16, Chester High School), Taryn Kloth (2014-15, O'Gorman High School), and Maggie DeJong (2013-14, Roosevelt High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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