

## **BYRON NELSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 13, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Paige Flickinger of Byron Nelson High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year**. Flickinger is the first Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Byron Nelson 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 Flickinger as Texas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Flickinger 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 5-foot-10 senior outside hitter led the Bobcats to a 50-2 record and the Class 6A state championship, along with a No. 2 national ranking as rated by PrepVolleyball.com this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Flickinger amassed 797 kills, 813 digs, 60 blocks and 36 aces. The MaxPreps National Player of the Year, she was also named a 2019-20 Under Armour First Team All-American.

Flickinger has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball programs. "Flickinger can put the ball anywhere she needs to, can find a hole in anyone's defense," said Melanie Mercer, head coach at Timber Creek High School. "She's a full, six-rotation player who is very competitive, very high energy. She's able to see a team's weakness and take advantage of it."

Flickinger has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Louisiana 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.

Two-time winner Flickinger joins Gatorade Texas Volleyball Players of the Year Adanna Rollins (2017-18, Hebron High School), Kylee McLaughlin (2016-17, Hebron High School), Morgyn Greer (2015-16, Dripping Springs High School), Alyssa Enneking (2014-15, Clear Falls High School), and Courtney Eckenrode (2013-14, The Woodlands High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Flickinger 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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