

## **FLINT HILL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 **Sydney Reed of Flint Hill School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year**. Reed is the fourth Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Flint Hill 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 Reed as Virginia'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, Reed 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-6 senior outside hitter led the Huskies to a 31-1 record and the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association Division I state championship this past season. Reed compiled 352 digs, 243 kills, 62 service aces, 35 assists and 20 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .429. A member of the U.S. Youth National Training Team as a libero, Reed was the 2019 Washington Post All-Met Player of the Year as well as the VISAA Division I Player of the Year. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,308 digs, 1,134 kills and 309 service aces.

Reed has volunteered locally as a Flint Hill student ambassador and as a youth volleyball coach. "Sydney was undoubtedly the most dominant player we saw this year," said Brandon Wiest, head coach of Georgetown Day School. "She excelled in all phases of the game. She covers a huge amount of the court defensively, is a lights-out passer and is an incredibly intelligent attacker."

Reed has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Reed joins recent Gatorade Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Krissy O'Malley (2018 – 19, Flint Hill School), Elena Shklyar (2017-18, Langley High School), Abby Bottomley (2016-17, Princess Anne High School), Holly Carlton (2015-16, Potomac Falls High School), Ally Ford (2014-15, Flint Hill School), and Alex Andrejev (2013-14, Langley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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