

LIBERTY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Addison Beagle of Liberty North High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year**. Beagle is the first Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty North 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 Beagle as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Beagle 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 junior setter led the Eagles to a 24-0 record and the Class 5 state championship this past season. Beagle compiled 912 assists, 197 digs, 58 kills, 57 service aces and 31 blocks, including 170 assists in Liberty North's four matches at the state tournament. A Class 5 First Team All-State selection, she concluded her junior year with a school-record 2,278 assists in her prep volleyball career.

A member of the Females Empowerment Club at Liberty North, Beagle has volunteered locally as a school ambassador and as a youth volleyball coach. "Since Addison Beagle stepped onto the court, she's been a special kind of leader for the Eagles," said Katie Dowden, head coach of Liberty North. "To say she is a difference-maker is an understatement; when she's on the court, she's Patrick Mahomes, creating opportunities for her hitters to succeed and making plays that are, quite frankly, incredible."

Beagle has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Beagle joins recent Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Players of the Year Birdie Hendrickson (2019-20 & 2018-19, Logan-Rogersville High School), Gabby Blossom (2017-18, St. Joseph's Academy), and Jena Otec (2016-17, St. Pius X High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Beagle has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Beagle is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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