## BISMARCK CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 11, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Logan Nissley** of **Bismarck Century High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Nissley is the second Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck Century 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 court, distinguishes Nissley as North 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, Nissley joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, 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 outside hitter led the Patriots to a 25-1 record and a second-straight Class A state championship this past season. Nissley amassed 361 digs along with 357 kills, 34 blocks and 19 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .373. The state's 2020-21 Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, she is a two-time First Team All-State volleyball selection.

Nissley has volunteered locally with the youth program at Charity Lutheran Church, and she has donated her time as a youth basketball camp counselor. "Logan is a smaller player, so naturally has to work harder than most to get around a block," said Brianna Kline, head coach of Bismarck High School. "She has multiple shots and knows when to mix it up—always keeping the opposing defense on its toes."

Nissley has maintained a weighted 3.89 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Nissley joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Julia Fitterer (2020-21, Bismarck Century High School), Kameron Selvig (2019-20, Jamestown High School), Lauren Ware (2018-19, Century High School), and Megan Gaffaney (2017-18, Jamestown High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Nissley has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Nissley is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.