

**ST. JAMES ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Audrey Klemp of St. James Academy as its 2018-19 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Klemp is the fourth Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. James Academy.

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 Klemp as Kansas'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, Klemp 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-2 senior outside hitter led the Thunder to a 34-8 record and a second-straight Class 5A state championship this past season. Klemp slammed 527 kills to go with 100 digs, 39 service aces and 30 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .528 and a hitting percentage of .395. An American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American selection, she was a setter as a junior before moving to hitter for her senior year.

A four-year member of the St. James student council, Klemp has volunteered locally as a youth sports camp counselor. "We had no answer defensively for Audrey," said Barry Lenth, head coach of Olathe Northwest High School. "She is a very good player."

Klemp has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Loyola Marymount 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.

Klemp joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Taylor Kuper (2017-18, Olathe Northwest High School), Madison Lilley (2016-17, Blue Valley West High School), Jenna Gray (2015-16, St. James Academy), Carlyle Nusbaum (2014-15, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School), and Kali Eaken (2013-14, Bishop Miege High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Klemp 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).