

**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Rylee Rader of Assumption High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. Rader is the twelfth Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Rader as Kentucky'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, Rader joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler 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 junior middle blocker led the Rockets to a 43-0 record, the state championship and a No. 1 national ranking according to PrepVolleyball.com. The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Rader recorded 415 kills, 56 blocks and 21 service aces with a .553 hitting percentage. Kentucky's Ms. Volleyball, she was selected the national ALL-USA Volleyball Player of the Year and was also named an All-American by PrepVolleyball.com, FloVolleyball and MaxPreps.

Rader has provided support for children suffering from the rare skin disease epidermolysis bullosa and has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen as well as the Heuser Hearing Institute. "Rylee Rader is an incredible front row player who contributes to many kills and blocks," said Maureen Kaiser, head coach at St. Henry High School. "She just makes things happen when she's in the front, and she's also a very effective server."

Rader has maintained a 3.47 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 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 Rader joins Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Paige Hammons (2016-17, Sacred Heart Academy), Morgan Hentz (2015-16, Notre Dame Academy), Merideth Jewell (2014-15, Mercy Academy), and Alexa Filley (2013-14, Assumption High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Rader 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.