

MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 13, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Grace Carr of Mountain Brook High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year**. Carr is the second Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Brook 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 Carr as Alabama'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, Carr 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 senior outside hitter led the Spartans to a 59-7 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Carr amassed 713 kills, 583 digs, 86 service aces and 53 blocks. The Al.com Super All-State Player of the Year, she was also selected Class 7A Player of the Year and was named Birmingham Region Player of the Year for the second straight season.

A devoted member of her church's youth ministry, Carr has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and youth volleyball programs. "Grace Carr is an outstanding volleyball player," said Mandy Burgess, head coach at Vestavia Hills High. "She's versatile with a powerful shot, but she can also finesse the ball. She plays with poise and she's mentally strong."

Carr has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will attend Auburn 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.

Carr joins recent Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Players of the Year Lillie Fromdahl (2018 – 19, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), Kenya McQuirter (2017-18, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), Lauren Chastang (2016-17, Bayside Academy), Sara Carr (2015-16 & 2014-15, Mountain Brook High School), and Leah Lawrence (2013-14, Covenant Christian Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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