

**GARDNER EDGERTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Kendra Wait of Gardner Edgerton High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year**. Wait is the second Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gardner Edgerton 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 Wait as Kansas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Wait 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 state's 2018-19 Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-10 junior setter amassed 944 assists and 417 digs this past season, leading the Trailblazers (28-13) to the Class 6A state semifinals. Wait also recorded 143 kills while posting a .475 kill percentage and a .385 hitting percentage, adding 119 blocks and 52 service aces. The 2019 Sunflower League Player of the Year, she concluded her junior year with 2,669 assists and 1,078 digs in her prep volleyball career.

Wait, who won state titles in the 100-meter dash and shot put as a sophomore, has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics. The secretary of her high school class, she has donated her time to food-donation drives and as a youth volleyball coach. "Kendra had a big impact on her team. She took them to the next level," said Matt Allin, head coach of Blue Valley North High School. "She's that big of a difference-maker. She is one of the hardest workers I've seen."

Wait has maintained a weighted 4.30 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at Creighton University beginning in the fall of 2021.

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.

Wait joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Audrey Klemp (2018 – 19, St. James Academy), 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," Wait 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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