

**TAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Chey Jones of Tahoma High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year**. Jones is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tahoma 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 Jones as Washington'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, Jones 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-4 senior outside hitter led the Bears to a 35-3 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Jones compiled 473 kills, 229 digs, 57 blocks and 42 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .382. The 2019 Seattle Times Player of the Year, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,221 kills.

A singer and piano player, Jones has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach. "Chey was a huge difference-maker for Tahoma this year," said Tony Batinovich, head coach of Puyallup High School. "She was the girl who they could go to when they needed to begin or end the other team's run. She was the best all-around player in the state of Washington."

Jones has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Boise State 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Shea Rubright (2018-19, West Valley High School), Calley Heilborn (2017-18, Auburn Riverside High School), Kennedy Croft (2016-17, Tumwater High School), Shayne McPherson (2015-16, Kennedy Catholic High School), Carson Heilborn (2014-15, Auburn Riverside High School), and Courtney Schwan (2013-14, Bellarmine Preparatory School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###