

**OAK GLEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Skye Stokes of Oak Glen High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year**. Stokes is the first Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Glen 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 Stokes as West Virginia'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, Stokes 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-9 senior outside hitter led the Golden Bears to a perfect 38-0 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Stokes recorded 439 kills, 279 digs, 167 service aces and 45 blocks. Captain of the Class AA All-State team, she was the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Player of the Year and was selected state Player of the Year by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

Stokes has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home and youth volleyball programs. "Skye Stokes is a phenomenal player," said Heather Halfin, head coach at Philip Barbour High. "She has a killer serve, and she can hit in the back row as hard as she can from the front row. She hustles and she has the power to completely dominate a game."

Stokes has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at West Virginia 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.

Stokes joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Bryce Knapp (2018-19, Woodrow Wilson High School), Tessa Wyner (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, George Washington High School), and Taylor Lord (2014-15 & 2013-14, Musselman High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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