

**LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Katy Ryan of Lakeland High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year. Ryan is the first Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeland 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 Ryan as Idaho's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Ryan 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-5 senior outside hitter led the Hawks to a 13-6 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Ryan recorded 234 kills, 101 digs, 32 blocks and 24 service aces, while posting a stellar hitting percentage of .463. A First Team

A devoted member of her church's youth group, Ryan has volunteered locally on behalf of a summer camp, a youth basketball team and a recreation program for special needs students. "Katy Ryan is just amazing," said Tacy Morris, head coach at Middleton High. "I've played and coached against girls who have gone Division 1, but she is one of best high school volleyball players I've ever seen."

Ryan has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Washington 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Ryan joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Makayla Sorensen (2019-20, Bonneville High School), Zoe Thiros (2018-19, Century High School), and Dani Nay (2017-18 & 2016-17, Skyview High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Ryan has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Ryan is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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