

**MERCY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Eleanor Beavin of Mercy Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. Beavin is the fourth Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mercy Academy.

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 Beavin as Kentucky’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, Beavin 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-5 senior libero amassed 493 digs, 75 assists and 28 service aces this past season, leading the Jaguars (21-3) to the state final. The state’s three-time Defensive Player of the Year, Beavin was a VolleyballMag.com First Team All-American, a MaxPreps Second Team All-American and a 2020-21 Under Armour Second Team All-American.

Beavin has volunteered locally on behalf of the Louisville Zoo, Coalition for the Homeless, youth volleyball programs and blood donation drives. “Eleanor Beavin is a remarkable player,” said Bart Catlett, head coach at Elizabethtown High. “She does a great job of running the back row, making great reads and really scrappy plays. Her serve is tremendous too.”

Beavin has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Beavin joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Anna DeBeer (2019-20, Assumption High School), Rylee Rader (2018-19 & 2017-18, Assumption High School), and Paige Hammons (2016-17, Sacred Heart Academy), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Beavin has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Beavin 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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