

**STEWARTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Erin Lamb of Stewartville High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year. Lamb is the first Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Stewartville 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 Lamb as Minnesota'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, Lamb 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-2 senior outside hitter led the Tigers to an 11-0 record this past season. Lamb compiled 134 kills, 80 digs, 22 blocks and 21 service aces while posting a .479 kill percentage and a .388 hitting percentage. An American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American selection, Lamb is a four-time First Team All-State selection. She led Stewartville to the Class AA state championship and concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,248 kills.

Lamb's uncle, Jason Owen, was the 1995-96 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. She has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Erin was unstoppable," said Kirk Thornton, head coach of Lincoln High. "She has an unbelievable serve that drops out of the air, she hits from all over the court, she plays with high energy and she's super-confident."

Lamb has maintained a 3.75 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.

Lamb joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Players of the Year Kennedy Orr (2019-20 & 2018-19, Eagan High School), McKenna Melville (2017-18, Eagan High School), and Sydney Hilley (2016-17, Champlin Park High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Lamb has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Lamb 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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