LA CUEVA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Sidney McIntosh of La Cueva High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade New Mexico Volleyball Player of the Year. McIntosh is the fifth Gatorade New Mexico Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from La Cueva 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 McIntosh as New Mexico'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, McIntosh 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 and defensive specialist recorded 114 kills this past season, leading the Bears (6-1) to the Class 5A state semifinals. McIntosh also made 15 digs and 13 blocks while posting a .467 kill percentage and a .385 hitting percentage. A 2019 PrepVolleyball.com Honorable Mention All-American selection, McIntosh is a four-time Albuquerque Journal All-Metro First Team selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,082 kills.

A leader of the La Cueva High Black Student Union, McIntosh has volunteered locally at the Taylor Ranch Community Center in Albuquerque, and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "Sidney is a dynamic outside hitter," said Steve Archibeque, head coach of La Cueva High. "She has so much power and velocity that her hits are incredible to watch and hard to defend."

McIntosh has maintained a weighted 3.49 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at New Mexico 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.

McIntosh joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Volleyball Players of the Year Mariana Sharp (2019-20, La Cueva High School), Brie Mortensen (2018-19, La Cueva High School), and Cat Kelly (2017-18 & 2016-17, Sandia Preparatory School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," McIntosh has the opportunity to award a $1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. McIntosh 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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