

**BISMARCK CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Julia Fitterer of Bismarck Century High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Fitterer is the first Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck Century 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 Fitterer as North Dakota'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, Fitterer 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 Patriots to a 24-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Fitterer compiled 336 digs, 273 kills, 20 service aces and 18 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .369. She was the Player of the Game in the state quarterfinals, semifinals and championship match. Fitterer is a three-time state champion and a two-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,735 digs and 1,003 kills.

A member of her local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Fitterer has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through the Century High National Honor Society. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Julia was consistently tough to play against," said Renae Mogen, head coach of Watford City High. "She is a complete all-around player, day in and day out. Her understanding and ability to read what was happening on the court contributed greatly to their success."

Fitterer has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Mary 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.

Fitterer joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Kameron Selvig (2019-20, Jamestown High School), Lauren Ware (2018-19, Century High School), Megan Gaffaney (2017-18, Jamestown High School), and Regan Dennis (2016-17, Century High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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