

**LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Lauren Jardine of Lone Peak High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year. Jardine is the third Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lone Peak 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 Jardine as Utah'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, Jardine joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler 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 Knights to a 29-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Jardine amassed 496 kills, 276 digs, 49 service aces and 43 blocks. Named Ms. Volleyball by the Deseret News, she is a 2020-21 Under Armour First Team All-American and a MaxPreps Second Team All-American.

Jardine has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group. "I don't know that there's anyone better than Lauren Jardine," said Shantell Shoell, head coach at American Fork High School. "She jumps high, she has good range, her defense is solid and she can hit out of the back row, which is rare for a high school player."

Jardine has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Jardine joins recent Gatorade Utah Volleyball Players of the Year Abbie Miller (2019-20, Pleasant Grove High School), Tasia Farmer (2018-19, Lone Peak High School), Heather Gneiting (2017-18, Pleasant Grove High School), and Dani Barton (2016-17, Brighton High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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