

**SPAIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 11, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Audrey Rothman** of **Spain Park High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year**. Rothman is the first Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spain Park 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 court, distinguishes Rothman as Alabama's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Rothman joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, 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-4 senior outside hitter led the Jaguars to a 47-4 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Rothman amassed 709 kills to go with 247 digs, 71 blocks and 67 service aces. The AL.com Player of the Year, she was a First Team Under Armour All-American and a MaxPreps First Team All-American.

A devoted member of her church community, Rothman has volunteered on behalf of the Spain Park Ambassadors and the Spain Park Peer Helpers programs. "Rothman is a complete volleyball player," said Judy Green, head coach at Thompson High School. "She's accomplished in all the skills of the game and she can terminate the ball at a high level. Her length allows her to attack angles that no one else in the state could."

Rothman has maintained a weighted 4.28 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Florida 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Rothman joins recent Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Players of the Year Rya McKinnon (2020-21, Hoover High School), Grace Carr (2019-20, Mountain Brook High School), Lillie Fromdahl (2018-19, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), and Kenya McQuirter (2017-18, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Rothman has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Rothman is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.