

**FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Maggie Mendelson** of **Fremont High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year**. Mendelson is the first Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fremont 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 Mendelson 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 January, Mendelson 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-5 senior middle blocker and outside hitter recorded 407 kills, 138 digs, 59 service aces and 55 blocks this past season, leading the Silverwolves (19-13) to the Class 6A state tournament. Mendelson is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a Third Team Under Armour All-American. A starter on the U.S. Girls U18 National Team that captured a bronze medal at September's world championships, she is ranked as the nation's No. 4 prospect in the Class of 2022 by PrepVolleyball.com.

Also a basketball standout, Mendelson has served as a peer tutor and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Weber County Animal Shelter and Project Rainbow, which fosters inclusivity. "Maggie Mendelson might be the best player in the country not because she's tall, but because of her drive and desire for perfection," said Mitch Stevens, head coach at Northridge High School. "She's just an amazing volleyball player with the ability to play any position."

Mendelson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play both volleyball and basketball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Mendelson joins recent Gatorade Utah Volleyball Players of the Year Lauren Jardine (2020-21, Lone Peak High School), Abbie Miller (2019-20, Pleasant Grove High School), Tasia Farmer (2018-19, Lone Peak High School), and Heather Gneiting (2017-18, Pleasant Grove 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, Mendelson 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. Mendelson 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.