MCCUTCHEON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 13, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Chloe Chicoine** of **McCutcheon High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year**. Chicoine is the first Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from McCutcheon 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 Chicoine as Indiana'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, Chicoine joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School, Calif.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.), Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior outside hitter amassed 549 kills by way of a .560 kill percentage and a .469 hitting percentage, and added 271 digs this past season, leading the Mavericks (33-2) to the Class 4A Noblesville Regional championship match. Chicoine also recorded 49 service aces and 25 blocks. The only high school athlete on the gold medal-winning USA Volleyball Under-21 women's national team at the Pan Am Cup last summer, Chicoine was a First Team All-American selection by both MaxPreps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association. She concluded her prep career with a school-record 2,013 kills along with 1,133 digs.

Chicoine has volunteered locally as a mentor for middle school athletes and she has donated her time on behalf of the YWCA, the Lafayette Urban Ministry and youth volleyball camps. "Chloe was incredible this season," said Haley Cook, head coach of Kokomo High School. "She is a great leader on the floor. Her impact is unmatched. When she is on the floor, everything just goes. She is hard to coach against and she is so dynamic."

Chicoine maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Chicoine inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll early at Purdue University, where she will play volleyball. She graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Two-time winner Chicoine joins recent Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Players of the Year, Ali Hornung (2020-21, Our Lady of Providence High School), Melani Shaffmaster (2019-20, New Castle High School), and Kenzie Knuckles (2018-19, Yorktown High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.