## FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (January 8, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Regan Harp** of **Fayetteville High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year**. Harp is the fifth Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Harp as Arkansas' best high school volleyball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Harper Murray (2022-23, Skyline High School, Mich.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Calif.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1 senior outside led the Bulldogs to a 25-8 record and a fourth straight Class 6A state championship this past season. Harp amassed 587 kills while posting a kill percentage of .402. A MaxPreps.com Second Team All-American, she also recorded 274 digs, 43 blocks, 33 service aces and 29 assists. Also two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,233 kills.

Harp was named the Junior Miss queen at the 2022 Arkansas State Fair. She has volunteered locally with Tim Tebow's Night to Shine and she has donated her time to youth literacy-outreach campaigns. "Regan almost single-handedly beat most of the teams they played this year," said Julie Rowan, head coach of Bentonville West High School. "She was always 'on' and I rarely saw any lapse in her mental toughness or her performance."

Harp has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Central Arkansas this fall.

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.

Harp joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Players of the Year Kennedy Phelan (2022-23 & 2021-22, Fayetteville High School), Hannah Hogue (2020-21, Southside Schoolide High School), and Clara Parker (2019-20, Jonesboro High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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>.

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