## BLUE VALLEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Logan Parks** of **Blue Valley North High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year**. Parks is the second Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley North 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 Parks as Kansas' 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 junior right-side hitter and setter recorded 444 kills and 361 assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (38-4) to the Class 6A state title game. Parks also compiled 228 digs, 81 service aces and 67 blocks while posting a .475 kill percentage and a .340 hitting percentage. The Class 6A Player of the Year, she is ranked as the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2025 by PrepDig.com. She concluded her junior year with 1,177 kills and 1,011 assists in her prep volleyball career.

Parks has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "Logan is a completely dominant force," said Lindsay Zych Franco, head coach of Bishop Miege High School. "She not only sets, but hits at an extremely high level. She is beyond efficient and terminates the ball (with authority) along with dominating defensively at the net."

Parks has maintained a weighted 4.04 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2025.

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.

Parks joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Brooklyn DeLeye (2022-23 & 2021-22, Washburn Rural High School), Caroline Bien (2020-21, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), and Kendra Wait (2019-20, Gardner Edgerton 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>.