

**JACKSON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kaylee Lowther** of **Jackson Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year**. Lowther is the fourth Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Academy.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Lowther as Mississippi’s 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 5-foot-4 senior libero led the Raiders to a 35-13 record and the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools Division I championship this past season. Lowther amassed a state single-season record 719 digs along with 122 assists and 86 service aces. The Scorebook Live National Libero of the Year, she was an American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American and a MaxPreps Second Team All-American honoree. The MAIS Division I Player of the Year, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,642 digs.

A member of her school’s chess club, Lowther has volunteered locally with Operation Christmas Child and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. “Kaylee is by far the best libero I’ve seen in years,” said Melissa Denson, head coach of Jackson Academy. “Her eye for the court and her game is the best I’ve seen. Her ball control, speed and ability to make athletic plays is unmatched.”

Lowther has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi 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.

Lowther joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Volleyball Players of the Year Lakin Laurendine (2022-23 & 2021-22, Jackson Academy) and Parker Bracken (2020-21 & 2019-20, Jackson Academy), 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 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.

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