

**LONE PEAK STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Zoey Burgess** of **Lone Peak** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year**. Burgess is the fourth Gatorade Utah Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lone Peak.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Burgess as Utah'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 6-foot-3 senior middle blocker recorded 279 kills on the strength of a .419 hitting percentage, leading the Knights to a 28-5 record and a fourth straight Class 6A state title this past season. Burgess added 94 digs, 65 blocks and 24 assists. An AVCA First Team All-American and one of Sports Illustrated's 20 Best High School Players in 2023, she is ranked as the nation's No. 34 recruit by PrepVolleyball.com. She was also a finalist for VBallRecruiter's Senior High School Player of the Year honors.

Burgess has volunteered locally on behalf of the Utah Food Bank and she's an active member of her LDS church community. She has also donated her time coaching youth volleyball players in association with both her high school and club program. "Zoey's presence is huge on her team," said Matt Carlson, head coach at Park City. "She is lethal both offensively and defensively. They are four-time consecutive state champions and a huge reason for that is Zoey Burgess."

Burgess has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Burgess inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Kansas, where she will play volleyball. She graduated from high school earlier this month and will attend classes in the upcoming spring semester.

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.

Burgess joins recent Gatorade Utah Volleyball Players of the Year Jordyn Harvey (2022-23, Bountiful High School), Maggie Mendelson (2021-22, Fremont High School), Lauren Jardine (2020-21, Lone Peak High School), and Abbie Miller (2019-20, Pleasant Grove 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 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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