LARAMIE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 **Maddy Stucky** of **Laramie High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Wyoming Volleyball Player of the Year**. Stucky is the fourth Gatorade Wyoming Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Laramie 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 Stucky as Wyoming'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.)

The 5-foot-11 senior setter led the Lady Plainsmen to a 33-1 record and a 4A state championship this past season. Stucky recorded 801 assists, averaging 8.3 per set, along with 210 digs, 158 kills, 62 blocks and 47 aces. The 2022-23 Gatorade Wyoming Volleyball Player of the Year, she is a three-time state champion and four-time All-State selection who concluded her prep career with 3,039 career assists.

Stucky has volunteered locally as a youth and AAU volleyball coach and on behalf of a local food drive. The former president of the Wyoming Quarter Horse Youth Association, she has also donated her time with a fundraiser to benefit cancer research. "She's a bulldog and her competitive drive is clear through her decisions she makes as a setter and how she holds her teammates accountable," said Sheridan head coach Kaitlyn Zarpentine.

Stucky has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Wyoming, where she plans to enroll early this month.

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 Stucky joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Volleyball Players of the Year Alexis Stucky (2021-22 & 2020-21, Laramie High School) and Danilynn Schell (2019-20, Kelly Walsh 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.