MUSSELMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ada McCoy** of **Musselman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year**. McCoy is the fifth Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Musselman High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes McCoy as West Virginia's best high school volleyball player and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Ca.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Ca.) and Ayden Ames (2023-24, Prosper High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter amassed 681 kills and 288 digs this past season, leading the Applemen (31-13) to the Class AAAA quarterfinals. McCoy averaged 4.9 kills per set and compiled a .443 kill percentage, adding 66 service aces and 26 blocks on the year. She was named Captain of the AAAA All-State Team and became a three-time All-State selection in the process, also leading the state in kills and digs per set for a second straight campaign.

A member of both 4-H and the National Honor Society, McCoy has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group. Also a participant in her school's Leadership Class, she is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Bible Club and the Rotary Interact Club. In addition, she's served as student body treasurer and has donated her time as a youth volleyball camp coach. "Ada is a tremendous, strong hitter who can score from any spot on the court," said Allison Whitford, head coach at Hedgesville High School. "She's a player who you have to know where she is on the court at all times or she will make you pay. She's a competitor, a great leader for her team and remains humble through all of her success. She's had an amazing high school career and she's leaving with her name written all over the record books."

McCoy has maintained a weighted 4.42 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at Shepherd University 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

McCoy joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year MacKenna Halfin (2023-24, Philip Barbour High School), Meg Williams (2022-23, Shady Spring High School), Hannah Howard (2021-22, Musselman High School) and Skylar Yates (2020-21, Hedgesville 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.