

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com BILLINGS WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 Addie Allen of Billings West High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Allen is the third Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings West 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 Allen as Montana’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-8 senior setter led the Golden Bears (35-0) to the Class AA state title this past season. Allen recorded 796 assists, averaging 8.9 per set, to go along with 118 digs and a 96.7 serve-receive percentage. Also the Eastern AA Player of the Year and a First Team All-State selection, she added 50 kills on the strength of a .710 hitting percentage, 20 blocks and 17 service aces. A youth leader in her church community, Allen has volunteered locally on behalf of Zoo Montana, the Billings Temple, the Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, the Ronald McDonald House and Light the World. She has also donated her time to the Tumbleweed Program in addition to coaching middle school youth volleyball and basketball players. “As their setter, Addie causes all sorts of issues for opponents,” said Helena High School head coach Lindsey Day. “She’s very difficult for defenses to read and distributes the ball well. She has a solid court presence and brings greatness out of her teammates around her. She’s a smart player and keeps defenses guessing her next move.” Allen has maintained a 4.58 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Montana State University Billings beginning 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. Allen joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Rylee Kogolshak (2022-23, Billings Senior High School), Tennisen Hiller (2021-22, C.M. Russell High School), Audrey Hofer (2020-21, Capital High School) and Paige Bartsch (2019-20, Capital 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