

Paige Brown Named Kansas Player of the Year

Written by Staff Reports

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Paige Brown (Overland Park, Kan./St. James Academy), who recently signed a National Letter of Intent to compete for Appalachian State volleyball next season, has been selected as

the Gatorade Player of the Year in her home state of Kansas, Gatorade and ESPN.com announced on Wednesday.

"We are very excited and happy for Paige," said head coach Matt Ginipro. "To be named Gatorade State Player of the Year in a state filled with incredible talent, like Kansas, is an amazing honor and we can't wait to get her in our gym."

Brown helped lead St. James to a 45-1 record as a senior and helped the Thunder to its fourth-straight Kansas Class 4A title this past season. She finished the year with 1,010 assists, 312 digs, 70 blocks, 59 kills and 45 service aces while posting a hitting percentage of .518.

A 2011-12 AVCA Under Armour All-America Honorable Mention, Brown was also selected as the 2011 Class 4A Volleyball Player of the Year in the state of Kansas while also earning the 2011 Evelyn Gates Award as the top high school volleyball player in the Kansas City area.

"Paige is part of a fantastic incoming recruiting class for Appalachian State and Associate Head Coach Kolby O'Donnell deserves a lot of credit for putting it together," said Ginipro. "We knew we needed to replace a big class of great players and we were able to do just that."

Brown not only excelled on the court during her career but also in the classroom and her community. The younger sister of current Mountaineer sophomore Lauren Brown (Overland Park, Kan./St. James Academy), Paige has maintained an "A" average throughout high school and volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives.

A two-time all-state selection, Brown also lettered in basketball at St. James and played club volleyball for MAVS, the same club team that fellow Mountaineers Lauren Brown, Jessica Eley (Kansas City, Mo./Bishop Miege) and Lindsey Sauls (Prairie Village, Kan./Shawnee Mission East) played for in high school.

Brown is one of four signees who will join the Appalachian State family next year as the Mountaineers look to replace five departing seniors, including two all-conference selections.