

WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Shea Rubright of West Valley High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year. Rubright is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Valley High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Rubright as Washington's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Rubright joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert High School, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public High School, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School Fla.).

The 6-foot-5 senior middle blocker led the Rams to a 25-3 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Rubright recorded 340 kills, 78 blocks, 59 digs and 47 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .615 and a hitting percentage of .505. Rated as the No. 12 recruit in the Class of 2019, Rubright is an American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 927 kills.

Rubright has volunteered locally with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington, and she has donated her time to the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach. "Shea is a very gifted player," said Connor Metcalfe, head coach of Wenatchee High School. "Along with being physically gifted, her intellect for the game is top-tier. Her ability to make adjustments is superb."

Rubright has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Rubright joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Calley Heilborn (2017-18, Auburn Riverside High School), Kennedy Croft (2016-17, Tumwater High School), Shayne McPherson (2015-16, Kennedy Catholic High School), Carson Heilborn (2014-15, Auburn Riverside High School), and Courtney Schwan (2013-14, Bellarmine Preparatory School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Rubright has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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