

WAUKEE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Avery Vogt of Waukee Northwest High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Vogt as Iowa's best high school volleyball player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, CA), April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, CA) and Campbell Flynn (2024-25, Mercy High School, MI).

The 5-foot-11 senior setter amassed 939 assists for an average of 10.1 per set this past season, leading the Wolves (38-1) to the Class 5A state title. Vogt also recorded 216 kills, 171 digs, 45 blocks and 38 service aces, earning AVCA Honorable Mention All-American and AVCA All-Region honors. A member of the IGCA Elite All-State Team, the state tournament MVP and the 5A Ms. Volleyball award-winner, she carried Waukee Northwest on a 52-set win streak to close out the season.

Vogt has volunteered locally on behalf of the Hope Vacation Bible School, Meals for the Heartland and the Make-a-Wish Jolly Holiday Lights gift shop. She has also donated her time by coaching youth volleyball players, serving as a track meet assistant and reading to elementary school students. "Avery Vogt has performed at an elite level in two sports, illustrating her tremendous versatility and athleticism," said Jim Duea, Assistant Director for the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. "She's as competitive an athlete as I've seen in 26 years as an athletic administrator and her volleyball resume speaks for itself. She would be an excellent representative of Gatorade Player of the Year honors."

Vogt has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at Drake University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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