

**BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Peyton Kubik of Blue Valley West High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kansas 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 Kubik as Kansas' 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 6-foot-2 junior outside hitter led the Jaguars to a 35-4 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Kubik compiled 483 kills and 250 digs while posting a .483 kill percentage and a .333 hitting percentage. An American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection, she concluded her junior year with 1,308 kills and 693 digs in her prep volleyball career.

Kubik has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach. "Peyton Kubik is too good everywhere (on the court)," said Lindsay Zych Franco, head coach of Bishop Miege High School. "She can pass consistently, get teams out of system with her serve and make big plays defensively at the net and in the back row. She is smart, physical at the net and consistent."

Kubik has maintained a weighted 4.04 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Pittsburgh beginning in the fall of 2027.

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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

###