

## **SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Addison West of Skutt Catholic High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nebraska 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 West as Nebraska'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 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter recorded 487 kills for an average of 4.8 per set this past season, leading the SkyHawks (29-11) to the Class B semifinals. West compiled a lethally efficient .440 hitting percentage and added 358 digs along with 38 service aces. Ranked as the nation's No. 78 recruit in her class by PrepVolleyball, she was an AVCA Second Team All-American selection and concluded her prep volleyball career as the school leader in kills with 1,612.

The winner of the Monsignor Eugene Scholarship Award for Outstanding Service to School and Community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the St. Robert Bellarmine Church and School, the Play it Forward Youth Sports Organization, the Sunset Retirement Village, Macy's Way, Abide, the Open Door Mission, the Food Bank for the Heartland and the Special Olympics, among others. Also a member of her school's student council, she participates in a number of school club organizations as well. "Addison West was a four-year contributor, a two-time state champ and should make an impact as a freshman at UNC," said Shannon Smolinski of the Premier Volleyball club. "In my opinion, she was the best all-around six-rotation player in the state last fall."

West has maintained a weighted 4.2 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of North Carolina 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](https://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

###