

**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE NEVADA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Ayanna Watson of Bishop Gorman High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nevada 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 Watson as Nevada'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-3 senior outside hitter led the Gaels (33-8) to the Class 5A state title this past season, ripping 568 kills for an average of 6.7 per set to go with a .422 hitting percentage. Watson also recorded 304 digs, 41 blocks and 35 service aces. Ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in her class by PrepVolleyball, she helped Team USA win a silver medal at the 2025 FIVB Girls U19 World Championships. The USAV Region 9 Player of the Year, Watson was a finalist for the organization's national award. She is now a three-time Gatorade State Player of the Year.

Watson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Quietstorm Foundation and the Just One Project as well as at her school's student store. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball instructor. "She's so dominant," said Chris Tobolski, Chief Editor at Vballrecruiter.com. "If you had to build a team from all the elite seniors in the country this year, there's a good chance you'd start with her."

Watson has maintained a weighted 3.90 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Pittsburgh 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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).

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