

LAKE STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Laura Eichert of Lake Stevens High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Washington 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 Eichert as Washington'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).

A returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 6-foot senior outside hitter led the Vikings to a 33-3 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Eichert amassed 633 kills and 260 digs, including a 44-kill, 13-dig effort in Lake Stevens' 3-2 win over Curtis High School in the state final. She also recorded 72 service aces, 40 blocks and 36 assists while posting a .532 kill percentage and a .422 hitting percentage. An American Volleyball Coaches Association Third-Team All-American selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,351 kills.

Eichert has volunteered locally at the Lake Stevens Boys & Girls Club, and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "In my many years of coaching I have never been more happy to see an opponent graduate than Laura Eichert," said Dave Thron, head coach of Glacier Peak High School. "She combines physical ability, skill and court awareness better than any high school player I've ever seen or coached."

Eichert has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Oregon 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.

###