

**HOWARDS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 13, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Saige Damrow** of **Howards Grove High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year**. Damrow is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Howards Grove High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Damrow as Wisconsin's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Damrow joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School, Calif.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.), Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter led the Tigers to a 38-4 record and the Division 3 state championship this past season. Damrow recorded 353 digs, 333 kills and 75 service aces, posting a .461 kill percentage and a .375 hitting percentage on the attack. A 2022 American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection, Damrow was an alternate for the USA Volleyball Under-18 Women's National Team last summer as a libero, her natural position. She is ranked as the nation's No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2023 by PrepVolleyball.com and concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,397 digs and 998 kills.

Damrow has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball coach and trainer. "Saige Damrow was such a force, even playing out of position," said Kristan Hren, head coach of Oak Creek High School. "Her defense is amazing and she can hit with power and placement at will."

Damrow has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Damrow inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Wisconsin, where she will play volleyball. She will graduate from high school later this month and attend classes in the spring semester.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Damrow joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Players of the Year Mckenna Wucherer (2021-22, Brookfield Central High School), Brooke Mosher (2020-21, Waterloo High School), Aubrey Hamilton (2019-20, Arrowhead High School), and Maddie Koch (2018-19, Ashwaubenon High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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