

**ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Phyona Schrader of Ankeny High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. Schrader is the second Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ankeny 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 field, distinguishes Schrader as Iowa's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Schrader joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert High School, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public High School, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot senior setter led the Hawks to a 25-2 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Schrader amassed 601 assists, 172 kills, 163 digs, 63 blocks and 50 service aces. The Iowa Girls Coaches Association Player of the Year, she is a two-time member of the Elite All-State team and was named an Honorable Mention All-American by VolleyballMag.com.

Also a talented cellist, Schrader has volunteered locally on behalf of youth volleyball programs. "Phyona Schrader is phenomenal," said Jessica Rinehart, head coach at Ankeny Centennial High. "She can do it all—set, hit, pass, serve. Whenever her team needed a point, she found a way. She really put her team on her back on the way to a championship."

Schrader has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame this fall.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Schrader joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Akacia Brown (2019-20, Cedar Falls High School), Madi Kubik (2018-19 & 2017-18, Valley High School), and Mackenzie May (2016-17, Wahlert Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Schrader has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Schrader is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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