

**WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Emma Swett of Woodland High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year. Swett is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodland 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 Swett as Washington'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, Swett 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-1 senior outside hitter and setter compiled 159 kills and 118 digs this past season, leading the Beavers (9-4) to the Class 2A Greater St. Helens District Tournament championship match. Swett also recorded 77 assists, 22 service aces and 16 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .438 and a hitting percentage of .300. The 2021 Greater St. Helens District Player of the Year, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 771 kills, 584 assists and 572 digs.

A member of the Woodland High School student council, Swett has volunteered locally as part of multiple initiatives to benefit those in need, and she has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "Emma is a terminating hitter with an excellent volleyball IQ who can literally do it all," said Danielle Hutton, head coach of Woodland High School. "Her athletic abilities give her the option to play any position across the net and be successful."

Swett has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Portland 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.

Swett joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Chey Jones (2019-20, Tahoma High School), Shea Rubright (2018-19, West Valley High School), Calley Heilborn (2017-18, Auburn Riverside High School), and Kennedy Croft (2016-17, Tumwater High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Swett has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Swett 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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