

**GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 11, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Liana Sarkissian** of **Greenwich High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year**. Sarkissian is the second Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Greenwich 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 Sarkissian as Connecticut'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, Sarkissian joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, 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-4 senior middle blocker led the Cardinals to a 26-1 record and the Class LL state championship this past season. Sarkissian recorded 346 kills, 110 digs, 72 blocks and 50 service aces. The GameTimeCT Player of the Year, she was a Second Team Under Armour All-American and was named to the All-FCIAC First Team.

Sarkissian has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and as a teacher's aide at her church. "Liana Sarkissian is just an amazing player," said Pete Georgiou, head coach at Brien McMahon High School. "She's great blocking at the net, but she can also get down on the ground. She plays terrific defense, she's good on serve and receive and she can pass too."

Sarkissian has maintained a weighted 4.50 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Dayton 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Sarkissian joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Players of the Year Emma Appleman (2020-21, Guilford High School), Paula Hernandez (2019-20, Woodstock Academy), Kiara Robichaud (2018-19, Joel Barlow High School), and Alana Hruska (2017-18, RHAM High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Sarkissian has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Sarkissian is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.