

**WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Summer Campbell** of **Wilson High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year**. Campbell is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilson 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 Campbell as District of Columbia'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, Campbell 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 senior middle blocker led the Tigers to a 23-1 record and the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletics Association and District of Columbia State Athletic Association tournament championships this past season. Campbell compiled 124 kills with a .617 kill percentage and a .488 hitting percentage along with 33 blocks, 19 digs and 19 service aces. She tallied 15 kills and 10 blocks to earn tournament MVP honors in Wilson's 3-2 win over Georgetown Day School in the DCSAA title match as the Tigers became the first public school to win in tournament history.

A passionate artist, Campbell has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "As a middle blocker, Summer impacted the game with her strong attacks and tactical play," said Candace Novoselnik, head coach of Sidwell Friends School. "Undoubtedly, without her, Wilson would not have been as successful as they were this season."

Campbell has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Campbell joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Players of the Year Rachel Richardson (2020-21 & 2019-20, St. John's College High School), Lauren Antonucci (2018-19, St. John's College High School), and Rebecca Frye (2017-18, St. John's College 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, Campbell 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. Campbell 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.

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