

**SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Eden Bower** of **Skyview High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year**. Bower is the second Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Bower as Idaho'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, Bower 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-3 senior outside hitter led the Hawks to a 36-2 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Bower amassed 632 kills and 307 digs to go with 58 blocks and 40 service aces. A First Team Under Armour All-American, she was selected as the Class 5A Player of the Year and the Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year.

Bower has volunteered locally on behalf of food donation drives and her school's Sources of Strength program, a comprehensive wellness initiative focusing on suicide prevention, substance abuse, violence prevention, resiliency and relationships. "Eden Bower is a game-changer for any team she plays for," said Heather Ward, head coach at Centennial High School. "She's explosive and plays big, but her volleyball awareness makes her even better and bigger on the court. She's a dynamic player in both the front row and the back row."

Bower has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Brigham Young University 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.

Bower joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Katy Ryan (2020-21, Lakeland High School), Makayla Sorensen (2019-20, Bonneville High School), Zoe Thiros (2018-19, Century High School), and Dani Nay (2017-18 & 2016-17, Skyview 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, Bower 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. Bower 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.