

**WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 11, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Bekka Allick** of **Waverly High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Player of the Year**. Allick is the second Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waverly 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 Allick as Nebraska'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, Allick 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 middle blocker and outside hitter recorded 442 kills, 341 digs, 50 blocks and 40 service aces this past season, leading the Vikings (24-12) to the Class B semifinals. A First Team Under Armour All-American, Allick was also named to the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State First Team and the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska First Team. She was captain of the U.S. Girls U18 National Team which captured a bronze medal at September's world championships, and she is ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2022 by PrepVolleyball.com.

Allick has volunteered on behalf of Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, which fights hunger and homelessness, in addition to donating her time to youth volleyball programs and Charitywater.org, which provides drinking water to people in low-income countries. "Bekka Allick is an amazing student-athlete," said Joe Wessel, head coach at Millard West High School. "She's just a truly talented young woman who is going to be a future star and role model for the Huskers."

Allick has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Allick joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Players of the Year Lindsay Krause (2020-21 & 2019-20, Skutt Catholic High School), Marriah Buss (2018-19, Lincoln Lutheran High School), and Jaela Zimmerman (2017-18, Malcolm 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, Allick 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. Allick 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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