

**VICTOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Emma Werkmeister** of **Victor Senior High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year**. Werkmeister is the first Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Victor Senior 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 Werkmeister as New York'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, Werkmeister 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 outside hitter led the Blue Devils to a 49-1 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Werkmeister amassed 610 kills to go with 175 digs, 84 service aces and 48 blocks, while posting a .441 hitting percentage. The three-time All-Greater Rochester Player of the Year, she is a MaxPreps First Team All-American and a Second Team Under Armour All-American.

Also a lacrosse standout, Werkmeister is a member of her school's Student Athlete Council and yearbook committee, and she has volunteered locally on behalf of the town library and youth volleyball programs. "Emma Werkmeister is a great all-around player," said Laura Thiele, head coach at Webster Thomas High School. "No one has been more impactful for their team this year. She's a dynamic threat at the net with a great ability to read the court. She's also a solid defensive player with a consistent jump-serve."

Werkmeister has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Werkmeister joins recent Gatorade New York Volleyball Players of the Year Carlie Rzeszotarski (2020-21, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School), Mychael Vernon (2019-20, Ossining High School), Beth Miller (2018-19, Portville High School), and Mackenzie Cole (2017-18, Connetquot 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, Werkmeister 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. Werkmeister 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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