

**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Jazmin Munson of Essex High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Vermont Volleyball Player of the Year**. Munson is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Munson as Vermont'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, Munson 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 led the Hornets to a 16-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Munson compiled 113 kills, 47 service aces, 21 digs and 16 blocks while posting a .526 kill percentage and a .293 hitting percentage. She is a three-time First Team All-State selection and a three-time state champion.

A member of her school's Athletic Leadership Council, Munson has volunteered locally as a math tutor and volleyball coach. She has also donated her time at the Humane Society of Chittenden County. "Jazmin is an excellent leader and has a very high volleyball IQ," said Jen Ligouri, head coach of Essex High School. "When she is on the court she owns the net both offensively and defensively."

Munson has maintained a 3.71 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.

Munson joins recent Gatorade Vermont Volleyball Players of the Year Molly Ardren (2020-21, Essex High School), Syrah Wright (2019-20, Mount Mansfield Union High School), Maddie Folsom (2018-19, Essex High School), and Charlotte Frivoll (2017-18, Essex 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, Munson 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. Munson 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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