

**BROOKFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Mckenna Wucherer** of **Brookfield Central High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year**. Wucherer is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Brookfield Central 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 Wucherer as Wisconsin'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, Wucherer 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-1 senior outside hitter compiled 444 kills and 210 digs this past season, leading the Lancers (35-12) to the Division 1 state semifinals. Wucherer also tallied 50 service aces and 30 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .536 and a hitting percentage of .414. A 2021 American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection, Wucherer missed 19 matches during the season while winning a bronze medal at the Under-18 World Championships in Mexico with the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2022 by both PrepDig.com and PrepVolleyball.com, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,028 kills and 1,076 digs.

A member of the National Spanish language Honor Society and the BCHS Blue Crew student-athlete leadership organization, Wucherer has volunteered on behalf of Feed the Families in association with the Brookfield Food Pantry and for Soles for Jesus, which provides footwear for the needy in Africa. She has also donated her time with the House of Peace food pantry and a variety of breast cancer awareness foundations in addition to coaching youth volleyball athletes at the club and public school level. "Mckenna was an impact player and leader on the court for Brookfield Central," said Caitie Ratkowski, head coach of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School. "Her front-row offense and defense, her back-row offense and defense and her serving scored so many points for BC this year. She is an incredible athlete and next-level volleyball player."

Wucherer has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Wucherer joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Volleyball Players of the Year Brooke Mosher (2020-21, Waterloo High School), Aubrey Hamilton (2019-20, Arrowhead High School), Maddie Koch (2018-19, Ashwaubenon High School), and Brooke Andersen (2017-18, Lake Country Lutheran 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, Wucherer 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. Wucherer 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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