

**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 13, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Lauren Sulte** of **Dimond High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year**. Sulte is the eighth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Sulte as Alaska'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, Sulte joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School, Calif.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.), Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10 senior outside hitter led the Lynx (46-8) to a Class 4A state championship this past season. Sulte amassed 447 kills and 546 digs along with 60 aces and 18 blocks. She was named First Team All-Region in the Cook Inlet Conference and MVP of the Dimond-Service All-Tournament team.

Sulte, a team captain, is also a state champion goalkeeper in soccer. She has accumulated more than 150 hours of community service this year and is a member of the National Honor Society. "Lauren is one of the best overall student-athletes I've been honored to coach in my 30-plus years courtside," said Dimond High School head coach Kim Lauwers. "I've seen her put the team on her shoulders and show them how to win or to come back when we were trailing because Lauren's faith and leadership was that inspiring."

Sulte has maintained a 4.41 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will matriculate at the United States Naval Academy 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.

Sulte joins recent Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Hanna Henrie (2021-22, South Anchorage High School), Kady Osborn (2020-21, Dimond High School), and Hahni Johnson (2019-20 & 2018-19, Dimond High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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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