

**DIKE-NEW HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 13, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Payton Petersen** of **Dike-New Hartford High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year**. Petersen is the second Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dike-New Hartford 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 Petersen as Iowa'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, Petersen 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-11 junior outside hitter amassed 515 kills by way of a .491 kill percentage and a .366 hitting percentage, and added 298 digs this past season, leading the Wolverines (45-3) to the Class 2A state championship match. Petersen also recorded 64 service aces, 51 blocks and 30 assists. A MaxPreps Second Team All-American selection, Petersen is ranked as the nation's No. 76 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepDig.com. She concluded her junior year with 1,542 kills and 1,066 digs in her prep volleyball career.

A member of the Dike-New Hartford High School student council, Petersen plays saxophone in both the school's concert band and jazz band. She has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit the American Red Cross and cancer research, and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Payton Petersen is one of the most mentally tough kids I have ever seen," said Jodi Vogt, head coach of Waukee Northwest High School. "She has one of the highest volleyball IQs of any kid I have seen and she consistently shows up to play. She is an all-around great player."

Petersen has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Louisville beginning in the fall of 2024.

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.

Petersen joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Kora Ruff (2021-22, Pleasant Valley High School), Phyona Schrader (2020-21, Ankeny High School), Akacia Brown (2019-20, Cedar Falls High School), and Madi Kubik (2018-19, Valley 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](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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