

**WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Brooklyn DeLeye** of **Washburn Rural High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year**. DeLeye is the second Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washburn Rural 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 DeLeye as Kansas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, DeLeye 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 state's returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter led the Junior Blues to a 45-1 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. DeLeye amassed 457 kills and 324 digs while posting a .503 kill percentage and a .341 hitting percentage. She also recorded 81 assists, 64 service aces and 21 blocks. A MaxPreps.com First Team All-American selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,090 kills.

DeLeye works at Common Grounds, the Washburn Rural High School coffee shop, and is the secretary of the school's National Technical Honor Society. She has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. "Brooklyn was very difficult to deal with this year; we lost to them three times and Brooklyn was the reason why," said Dave Johnson, head coach of Blue Valley High School. "You can't serve to her because the more she touches the ball the better she gets. And if you let her get going, she can serve you off the court."

DeLeye 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 Kentucky 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.

Two-time winner DeLeye joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Caroline Bien (2020-21, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Kendra Wait (2019-20, Gardner Edgerton High School), and Audrey Klemp (2018-19, St. James Academy), 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).