

**SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Harper Murray** of **Skyline High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year**. Murray is the first Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Murray as Michigan'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, Murray 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 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter amassed 726 kills and 409 digs this past season, leading the Eagles (38-9) to the Division 1 regional semifinals. Murray also recorded 86 service aces, 44 assists and 40 blocks. She posted a .519 kill percentage and a .405 hitting percentage on the attack. She was named "Best Spiker" at the Under-19 Pan Am Cup in Tulsa, Okla., in August, where she helped the U.S. team to the gold medal. The state's Miss Volleyball winner, Murray was a First Team All-American by both MaxPreps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,488 kills and 1,460 digs and also earned an AAU U17 national title in club play.

A member of Ann Arbor Schools' Rising Scholars Leadership Program, designed to create access and opportunity for underrepresented yet high achieving students, Murray has volunteered extensively for the Vada Murray Endowed Fund for Cancer Research, named for her late father. She has also served as a lead coach for the Skyline Rising Eagle Volleyball Clinic. "I am not sure I have seen a more complete player at the high school level than Harper Murray," said Jim Fish, head coach of North Branch High School. "You could game plan to stop her, but she is so gifted athletically and clearly high-performing in all of her skills that she can still be successful and take over a match. Once you play against her you can truly appreciate her talent."

Murray has maintained a 3.62 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Murray inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Nebraska, where she will play volleyball. She graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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.

Murray joins recent Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Players of the Year Ava Brizard (2021-22 & 2020-21, Marian High School) and Jess Mruzik (2019-20 & 2018-19, Mercy 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).