

**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Rylee Kogolshak** of **Billings Senior High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year**. Kogolshak is the eighth Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Kogolshak as Montana'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, Kogolshak 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 setter led the Broncs (28-5) to the program's first Class AA state championship since 2014 this past season. Kogolshak was the team's catalyst throughout 2022, tallying 962 assists, 269 digs, 71 blocks, 61 kills and 53 aces. She was named the 2022 Eastern Conference Player of the Year and was a First Team All-State selection for the second consecutive season.

Kogolshak has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, the Montana Marathon and as a local youth volleyball coach. "What she did for her team this year was just incredible," said Helena High School coach Lindsey Day. "She's super-athletic, reads the court well and is a calm presence on the floor. She runs their offense well and gets the ball to the right girl at the right time."

Kogolshak maintains a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Montana State University-Billings 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.

Kogolshak joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Tennesen Hiller (2021-22, C.M. Russell High School), Audrey Hofer (2020-21 & 2018-19, Capital High School), and Paige Bartsch (2019-20, Capital 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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