

**MILLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Kiarrah Horne** of **Millbrook High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year**. Horne is the first Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millbrook 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 Horne as North Carolina’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, Horne 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-1 junior outside hitter led the Wildcats to a 29-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Horne recorded 522 kills and 220 digs, including a state-finals record 27 kills in Millbrook’s 3-0 win over Sun Valley High School in the finale, earning her tournament MVP honors. She also tallied 44 service aces and 37 blocks on the year, posting a .585 kill percentage and a .455 hitting percentage on the attack.

A student ambassador at Millbrook High, Horne has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. “Kiki is a massive threat—not only on the front row, but in the back row as well,” said Jessica Furlough, head coach of Heritage High School. “She is a very good passer and server, but her back-row attack is just as dangerous as her front row.”

Horne has maintained a weighted 4.03 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Horne joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Riley Buckley (2021-22 & 2020-21, North Raleigh Christian Academy), Jade Demps (2019-20, Broughton High School), and Sydney Dowler (2018-19, Green Hope 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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