

**O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Bergen Reilly** of **O'Gorman High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Reilly is the third Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from O'Gorman 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 Reilly as South Dakota'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, Reilly 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 senior outside hitter led the Knights (26-5) to the South Dakota Class AA state semifinals this past season. A natural setter, she recorded 440 kills, 338 digs, 60 aces and 26 blocks, posting a .307 hitting percentage despite playing out of position. The nation's top-ranked setter and rated the No. 4 overall prospect in her class by PrepVolleyball.com, Reilly was MVP of the Pan Am Cup last summer with the USA Volleyball U19 Women's National Team that won the gold medal. Also an Under Armour All-America selection and an AVCA First Team All-American, she was invited to play for the USA Volleyball Senior National Team in the Pan Am Final Six in September, the first time a prep player has been asked to compete with the Olympic-level team in more than 20 years.

A two-time state champion and now a three-time returning South Dakota Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Reilly has volunteered as a server on behalf of The Banquet (a feeding ministry that serves food to the homeless) in addition to donating her time to Family to Family (an organization that gives winter clothes and coats to the less fortunate) and Live Inspired 365 (a ministry benefitting mental health awareness). She has also served as an O'Gorman High School Student Ambassador and as an instructor and coach at youth basketball and volleyball camps. "Bergen was the best attacker in the state, the best setter and could be the best at other positions," said O'Gorman High School coach Cale Hecht. "She does all this while being an incredible leader and example in the O'Gorman program ... She is in many people's minds the greatest player to ever come out of South Dakota high school volleyball."

Reilly has maintained a 4.08 weighted GPA in the classroom. She graduated high school early, last month, and has matriculated at the University of Nebraska, where she will play volleyball on scholarship.

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.

Three-time winner Reilly joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Kadye Fernholz (2019-20, Miller High School) and Lily Bartling (2018-19, Washington 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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