

**CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Lauren Hurst** of **Cleveland High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Tennessee Volleyball Player of the Year**. Hurst is the first Gatorade Tennessee Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cleveland 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 Hurst as Tennessee'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, Hurst 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 sophomore outside hitter led the Blue Raiders to a 49-5 record and the Division I, Class AAA state championship this past season. Hurst amassed 647 kills and 354 digs, including 19 kills in Cleveland's 3-0 win over Collierville High in the state final. A 2022 MaxPreps.com Second Team All-American selection, she also recorded 94 service aces, 73 assists and 61 blocks, posting a .438 kill percentage on the attack.

Hurst has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Lauren Hurst was dominant in our sectional match and absolutely everywhere on the floor," said Avei Logoleo, head coach of Oakland High School. "She would hit outside in one rotation and at middle the next. Then she would go back row and play excellent defense and still put the ball away with aggressive attacks. I was really impressed with her ability to see the court and execute."

Hurst has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Hurst joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Volleyball Players of the Year Devyn Dunn (2021-22, Knoxville Catholic High School), Shaye Eggleston (2020-21 & 2019-20, Brentwood High School), and Alyiah Wells (2018-19, Briarcrest Christian 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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