

**NORTH CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Kyleene Filimaua** of **North Creek High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year**. Filimaua is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Creek 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 Filimaua as Washington'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, Filimaua 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 senior outside hitter recorded 380 kills and 206 digs this past season, leading the Jaguars (31-4-1) to the Class 4A state tournament. Filimaua also compiled 57 service aces, 37 assists and 21 blocks, posting a .552 kill percentage and a .370 hitting percentage on the attack. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a 2022 PrepVolleyball.com Honorable Mention All-American honoree, she missed the entire 2021 season with a knee injury.

Filimaua has volunteered locally as a peer tutor for students with special needs and she has donated her time as a youth volleyball coach and referee. "Ky is a six-rotation, no-pain, no-gain player who knows how to lead teams," said Gail Cornelius, head coach of North Creek High School. "She is not only an offensive threat from both the front and back rows, but she is also an efficient defensive machine."

Filimaua has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Florida State University 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.

Filimaua joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Jenna Legault (2021-22, Bothell High School), Emma Swett (2020-21, Woodland High School), Chey Jones (2019-20, Tahoma High School), and Shea Rubright (2018-19, West Valley 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.