

**SHADY SPRING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Meg Williams** of **Shady Spring High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year**. Williams is the first Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shady Spring 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 Williams as West Virginia'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, Williams 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-11 senior middle hitter led the Tigers to a 52-5-1 record and the Class AA state championship match this past season. Williams amassed 553 kills, averaging 4.3 per set and 389 digs and 120 blocks, while also recording 64 aces and 81 assists. Also the West Virginia Sports Writers Association Player of the Year, she was a AA First Team All-State selection for a fourth time and concluded her prep career with 1,541 kills and 1,123 digs.

A National Honor Society member, Williams has volunteered locally mentoring ninth graders in the Next Step Program at Shady Spring. She also has donated her time to an autism awareness volleyball fundraiser for the past two years and at the Daniels Elementary Field Day. "She definitely had a huge impact on her team's success," said Hedgesville High School head coach Allison Whitford. "They only dropped five matches this year and played several AAA teams. She is also a very humble player who lifts her team up no matter the score or how she is performing."

Williams has maintained a 4.13 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Concord 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Howard (2021-22, Musselman High School), Skylar Yates (2020-21, Hedgesville High School), Skye Stokes (2019-20, Oak Glen High School), and Bryce Knapp (2018-19, Woodrow Wilson 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.