

**DIKE-NEW HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Payton Petersen** of **Dike-New Hartford High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year**. Petersen is the second Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dike-New Hartford High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Petersen as Iowa's best high school volleyball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Harper Murray (2022-23, Skyline High School, Mich.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Calif.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Wolverines (50-0) to the Class 2A title and a No. 14 ranking in the MaxPreps national top 50 this past season. A 2023 MaxPreps and Under Armour First Team All-American, Petersen amassed 616 kills, averaging 5.5 per set, to go with 328 digs, 39 service aces and 36 blocks. The 2023 Iowa Girls Coaches Association Volleyball Player of the Year, she compiled a hitting efficiency of .463 as a senior. Ranked as the nation's No. 55 recruit by PrepDig, she was named one of Sports Illustrated's 20 Best HS Players of 2023 and was a finalist for the VBallRecruiter.com Senior High School Player of the Year award.

A member of her school's student council, concert band, jazz band, marching band, pep band and cabaret, Petersen has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, the North Iowa Food Bank and the City of Dike, among multiple additional community service endeavors. Also a member of her church's youth group, she has donated her time as a youth volleyball camp and clinic instructor. "Payton is an athlete who comes around once in a coach's career," said Dike-New Hartford High School head coach Diane Harms. "Her demeanor on and off the court is exceptional, her work ethic is unmatched, she doesn't take anything for granted and on the court, she's a very humble young lady who celebrates her teammates' success more than her own accomplishments."

Petersen has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

Two-time winner Petersen joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Kora Ruff (2021-22, Pleasant Valley High School), Phyona Schrader (2020-21, Ankeny High School), and Akacia Brown (2019-20, Cedar Falls High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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.

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