

**HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Julia Hunt** of **Holy Cross High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year**. Hunt is the first Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Holy Cross 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 Hunt as Kentucky'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 6-foot-2 senior middle blocker amassed 678 kills, averaging 6.9 per set and added 290 digs along with 117 blocks, leading the Indians (23-12) to the District semifinals round of the postseason this past fall. Ranked as the nation's No. 11 recruit by PrepDig, Hunt was an AVCA First Team All-American and the Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association Ms. Volleyball award winner. A three-time First Team All-State selection and one of only 12 All-American honorees by Volleyball Magazine, she was the state leader in kills and blocks in 2023 and compiled a hitting percentage of .311.

Hunt has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach and on behalf of the Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring Program. She has also donated her time to Rose Mission and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church community. "Julia Hunt has arguably been the best in the state for years," said duPont Manual High School head coach Richard Weaver. "She doesn't get all the recognition she deserves being in a smaller school in the Covington area, but her numbers across the board are outstanding. In my opinion, she was the best player in the state of Kentucky in 2023."

Hunt has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Hunt joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Nya Bunton (2022-23, duPont Manual High School), Taylor Preston (2021-22, St. Henry District High School), Eleanor Beavin (2020-21, Mercy Academy), and Anna DeBeer (2019-20, Assumption 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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