

**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 8, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ayanna Watson** of **Bishop Gorman High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Player of the Year**. Watson is the third Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Watson as Nevada'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-3 sophomore outside hitter led the Gaels to a 34-5 record and the Class 5A state final this past season. Watson amassed 605 kills, averaging 5.7 per set on the strength .392 hitting percentage, along with 373 digs, 56 aces, 52 blocks and a .978 serve-receive percentage. The VBallRecruiter National Sophomore Player of the Year and a MaxPreps Sophomore All-American, Watson is ranked No. 2 in PrepVolleyball's 10-Foot Club with a swing height of 10-foot-5.

Watson has volunteered on behalf of the Quietstorm Foundation's Free Out of School Program, working with preteens and teens to develop healthy habits, create art and take field trips. She has also donated her time to the Foundation's annual youth basketball camp and her high school's student store in addition to the Just One Project and the Tour of Teens Miracles. "Ayanna Watson is a very deserving winner," said Coronado High School head coach Melody Nua. "She put up big numbers, pulled down high accolades and took her team to regional and state titles."

Watson has maintained a 3.71 weighted 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.

Watson joins recent Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Players of the Year Angelina Sayles (2022-23, Coronado High School), Caroline Edgeworth (2021-22, Bishop Gorman High School), Tori Harper (2020-21, Bishop Manogue High School) and Tommi Stockham (2019-20, Bishop Gorman 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](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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