

**JENKS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Maren Johnson** of **Jenks High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year**. Johnson is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jenks 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 Johnson as Oklahoma'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 senior outside hitter led the Trojans to a 34-5 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Johnson recorded 399 kills and 160 digs, including 12 of each in Jenks' 3-0 win over Edmond Memorial in the state final to earn match MVP honors. The MaxPreps.com State Player of the Year, Johnson also contributed 50 blocks and 15 service aces while posting a .437 kill percentage and a .340 hitting percentage. She concluded her prep volleyball career with a school-record 1,371 kills.

A four-year member of the Jenks High student council, Johnson has volunteered locally at the Mabee Red Shield Boys & Girls Club in Tulsa and as a youth volleyball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the National Charity League. "Maren proved to be devastating to our opponents, mixing up her swings and showing off her range and speed," said Tanna Smith, head coach of Jenks High School. "Maren is a hard worker in practice and is always very focused and goal-oriented. Her shoes will be very difficult to fill."

Johnson has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Volleyball Players of the Year Kathrin Rowe (2022-23, Edmond Memorial High School), Mackenzie McGuire (2021-22, Broken Arrow High School), Audrey Buford (2020-21, Bishop Kelley High School) and Kamryn Bacus (2019-20, Edmond North 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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