

**COLUMBIA RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Lauren Dreves** of **Columbia River High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year**. Dreves is the first Gatorade Washington Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Columbia River 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 Dreves as Washington’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 Rapids to a 32-0 record and a third-straight Class 2A state championship this past season. Dreves recorded 387 kills and 188 digs while posting a .572 kill percentage and a .527 hitting percentage. She also compiled 51 service aces and 19 assists. Ranked as the No. 47 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepDig.com, Dreves is a three-time Class 2A First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,200 kills and 580 digs.

Dreves has volunteered locally with FISH Vancouver, a food pantry. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. “Lauren is relentless in her pursuit of being the best while elevating her team to do the same,” said Breanne Smedley, head coach of Columbia River High School. “She is fierce, loyal and stops at nothing to find a way to win. She is the type of player that everyone wants on their side and no one wants to play against.”

Dreves has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Auburn 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.

Dreves joins recent Gatorade Washington Volleyball Players of the Year Kyleene Filimaua (2022-23, North Creek High School), Jenna Legault (2021-22, Bothell High School), Emma Swett (2020-21, Woodland High School), and Chey Jones (2019-20, Tahoma 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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