

**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Eleasha Sapon** of **Dimond High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year**. Sapon is the ninth Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Sapon as Alaska’s best high school volleyball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Ca.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Ca.) and Ayden Ames (2023-24, Prosper High School, Texas).

The 5-foot senior libero led the Lynx to a 47-10-4 record and the fourth round of the double-elimination Class 4A state tournament this past season. Sapon amassed 1,019 digs, averaging 7.1 per set, and was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-American. She added 78 aces and 94 assists on the year and was named to the 4A All-Tournament Team.

Sapon has volunteered locally through the Dimond High School Key Club, packing up essential items for homeless youth and Halloween bags for underserved children. She has also donated her time serving those same populations through clothing drives and by distributing blankets during the colder months. “Eleasha Sapon is an incredible libero—nothing seems to get past her,” said Wendey Baumeister, Grace Christian School head coach. “She delivers great passes that have really allowed Dimond a chance to develop some of their younger players quickly.”

Sapon has maintained a 3.48 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 across 12 different high school sports - 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.

Sapon joins recent Gatorade Alaska Volleyball Players of the Year Emma Beck (2023-24, Kenai Central High School), Lauren Sulte (2022-23, Dimond High School), Hanna Henrie (2021-22, South Anchorage High School) and Kadyn Osborne (2020-21, Dimond 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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