

## **GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Jada Aksu** of **Georgetown Day School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year**. Aksu is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Georgetown Day 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 Aksu as District of Columbia’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 6-foot senior right-side hitter led the Mighty Hoppers to a 25-1 record and a second straight DCSAA Tournament championship this past season. Aksu recorded 281 kills and 97 digs, including a 16-kill effort in Georgetown Day School’s 3-0 win over St. John’s College High School in the DCSAA final. An American Volleyball Coaches Association Third Team All-American, she also compiled 39 service aces and 27 blocks while posting a .556 kill percentage and a .422 hitting percentage at net.

The co-founder of the Georgetown Day School English Mentoring Club, Aksu has volunteered locally as a peer tutor in English and math. She has also donated her time at a local retirement community and as a youth volleyball coach. “Jada is a game-changer on the court,” said Cheryl Weaver, head coach of the Bullis School. “We played them several times over the course of several seasons and our game plan was definitely focused on containing her. She can hit shots and take angles as a lefty on the right side that a lot of players can’t.”

Aksu has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at Lafayette College this fall.

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.

Aksu joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Volleyball Players of the Year Clara Yu (2023-24, Georgetown Day School), Pam McCune (2022-23, St. John’s College High School), Summer Campbell (2021-22, Wilson High School) and Rachel Richardson (2020-21, St. John’s College 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).