SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Bellamie Beus** of **Skyview High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year**. Beus is the fifth Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Beus as Idaho'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-10 junior outside hitter amassed 595 kills and 335 digs this past season, leading the Hawks (27-8) to the Class 6A state title game and the No. 81 national ranking in the MaxPreps Top 100. Beus compiled a .348 hitting percentage along with 58 service aces, 54 blocks and 32 assists on the year. An AVAC Second Team All-American selection and a three-time All-State honoree, she's ranked as the nation's No. 16 prospect by PrepDig and was named All-Northwest Region by PrepVolleyball.

Beus has participated in a humanitarian trip to Brazil in association with Liga Solidaria, engaging in a mentorship role with children at an orphanage. Since returning, she has organized the delivery of sports equipment to the orphanage and launched a fundraiser on its behalf earlier this month. "I have coached over 150 varsity volleyball matches since 2020, and in each of those five seasons, we've played the toughest schedule in the state of Utah," said Dave Neely, head coach at Pleasant Grove High School in Utah. "We've competed against Skyview on an annual basis and the match Bella played against us early this past season was the most impressive and dominating match I've ever seen from a high school volleyball player. She's not only the premiere volleyball player in the state of Idaho, but also one of the elite outside hitters in the entire country."

Beus has maintained a weighted 3.53 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky beginning the fall of 2026.

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.

Beus joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Alex Bower (2023-24, Skyview High School), Alex Acevedo (2022-23, Skyview High School), Eden Bower (2021-22, Skyview High School) and Katy Ryan (2020-21, Lakeland 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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