

## **MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 **Chloe Meester** of **Mount Vernon High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year**. Meester is the second Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Vernon 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 Meester as Iowa'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-3 senior outside hitter amassed 575 kills and a .461 hitting percentage this past season, leading the Mustangs (44-4) to the Class 3A state title and the No. 44 national ranking in the MaxPreps Top 50. Also the IGCA Elite All-State Team POY, Meester chipped in 240 digs, 63 service aces and 27 blocks. Ranked as the nation's No. 33 prospect in her class by PrepDig, she is a 3-time First Team All-State selection, an AVAC First Team All-American and a two-time USAV Nationals champion, twice earning MVP honors as part of that event's All-Tournament team.

Also a basketball and track talent, Meester has volunteered locally by teaching religious classes at her church and as an elementary school teaching assistant. She has also coached youth players at volleyball camps and works as a farm hand at Kroul Farms. "Chloe Meester is a dynamic force on the volleyball court known for her competitive spirit and tough-minded approach to every match," said Roxanne Paulsen, head coach at Marion High School. "When the pressure mounts, she consistently rises to the occasion, delivering clutch performances that inspire her teammates to play at their best. Her resilience and determination make her a player that opponents dread facing. Chloe has a way of keeping things light on the court and with her exceptional skills and infectious enthusiasm, she embodies the essence of teamwork and sportsmanship. I have coached against many great players in my position, I believe Chloe is one of the best."

Meester has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Louisville 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.

Meester joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Payton Petersen (2023-24 & 2022-23, Dike-New Hartford High School), Kora Ruff (2021-22, Pleasant Valley High School) and Phyona Schrader (2020-21, Ankeny 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).

###