

## **ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Kristen Simon** of **Assumption High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year**. Simon is the fourteenth Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Simon as Kentucky’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-8 senior libero amassed 464 digs this past season, leading the Rockets (35-8) to the state title and a No. 22 ranking in the national MaxPreps Top 25. Ranked as the nation’s No. 19 prospect in her class by PrepVolleyball, Simon was named KVCA Defensive POY, adding 59 service aces and 28 assists on the year. As a defensive specialist, she was named Tournament MVP last summer when her club team became USAV National Division U16 Champions.

A member of the National English and Spanish honor societies as well as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Simon has volunteered locally on behalf of Indian Trail Elementary, Nazareth Home and the Down Syndrome Walk of Louisville. She has also coached, refereed and worked concessions at youth volleyball jamborees. “Since the success of volleyball teams rests with the ability and skill level of the first contacts, Kristen offers us so much in each category,” said Ron Kordes, head coach at Assumption High School. “She is a phenomenal passer in serve-receive. Her accuracy and consistency allow our team to get in system and enhance our offensive talents at the net. Also, her ability to serve aggressively and accurately makes it more difficult for our opponents to get into their offense. She is a tremendous defender, as her quickness allows her to cover so much court. Sometimes, it feels like we have two defenders in one. I’ve grown so accustomed to having Kristen anchor our defense that she will be sorely missed when she moves on to what I predict will be an outstanding college career at Wisconsin.”

Simon has maintained a weighted 4.44 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Simon joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Julia Hunt (2023-24, Holy Cross High School), Nya Bunton (2022-23, duPont Manual High School), Taylor Preston (2021-22, St. Henry District High School) and Eleanor Beavin (2020-21, Mercy Academy), 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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