PAPILLION-LA VISTA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Charlee Solomon** of **Papillion-La Vista South High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Player of the Year**. Solomon is the seventh Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Papillion-La Vista South 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 Solomon as Nebraska'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-9 senior right side hitter and setter amassed 610 assists and 307 kills this past season, leading the Titans (34-5) to the Class A state title and a No. 21 ranking in the national MaxPreps Top 25. Solomon averaged 6.1 assists and 3.1 kills per set, compiling a .494 kill percentage and a .344 hitting percentage at net. She added 263 digs and 53 service aces on the year. A First Team Super State honoree, she will graduate as a three-time state champion

Solomon has volunteered locally on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Special Olympics. She has also donated her time coaching youth players for Sunset West Volleyball and she works as a CNA at a nearby nursing home. "Charlee Solomon is an exceptional volleyball player whose remarkable skill set, relentless work ethic and commitment to her team make her an ideal candidate for this award," said Joe Wessel, head coach at Millard West High School. "Beyond her technical skills, she possesses an unwavering determination and a team-first mentality that sets her apart. She elevates those around her, leading by example with poise and intensity. She also thrives in high-pressure moments. She's a shining example of the very best in Nebraska volleyball."

Solomon has maintained a weighted 3.3 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at Jacksonville State University 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.

Solomon joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Volleyball Players of the Year Olivia Mauch (2023-24, Bennington High School), Lauren Medeck (2022-23, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Bekka Allick (2021-22, Waverly High School) and Lindsay Krause (2020-21, Skutt Catholic 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 facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.