

**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Ayanna Watson** of **Bishop Gorman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Player of the Year**. Watson is the third Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Watson as Nevada’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 state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-3 junior outside hitter amassed 705 kills and 286 digs this past season, leading the Gaels (29-8) to the Class 5A state title. Watson averaged 7.3 kills per set and compiled a kill percentage of .620 and a hitting percentage of .546. She added 44 service aces, 40 blocks and 33 assists on the year. Ranked as the nation’s No. 8 prospect in her class by PrepVolleyball, she was also the PrepVolleyball Class of 2026 National Player of the Year.

Watson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Quietstorm Foundation and the Just One Project as well as at her school’s student store. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball instructor. “Ayanna has been the mainstay, go-to hitter for Bishop Gorman the past couple of years,” said Amy Fisher, head coach at Faith Lutheran High School. “She epitomizes the volleyball player we all want to have. Her competitiveness, her outstanding ability in all skill sets, her capacity to raise her teammates up and her willingness to be the leader for her team outdoes any hitter I’ve seen in Nevada. She’s the best player across all divisions in the state and she does it with a sense of humility and confidence.”

Watson has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Pittsburgh beginning in 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.

Two-time winner Watson joins recent Gatorade Nevada Volleyball Players of the Year Angelina Sayles (2022-23, Coronado High School), Caroline Edgeworth (2021-22, Bishop Gorman High School) and Tori Harper (2020-21, Bishop Manogue 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 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.