



Shakopee High School volleyball player Ashley Wittman was named Gatorade 2009-2010 National Volleyball Player of the Year at an award ceremony at the school Dec. 21.

Wittman was surprised with the news during her sixth period class by two-time Olympic gold medalist Misty May-Treanor.

The award, which recognizes outstanding athletic excellence as well as high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character on and off the court, distinguishes Wittman as the nation's best high school volleyball player. A national advisory panel of sports writers and sport-specific experts from around the country helped select Wittman from more than 404,000 high school volleyball players nationwide. She is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade Female High School Athlete of the Year award, to be presented at a ceremony prior to The ESPY Awards in July.

Wittman led the Sabers to a 32-0 record and their third consecutive Class 3A state championship this past season. The two-time Gatorade Minnesota Volleyball Player for the Year, she collected 569 kills, 294 digs, 50

blocks and 26 service aces this season while posting a kill percentage of .662. In the Class 3A state final, she had 34 kills and 19 digs in a win over Wayzata High School. Wittman is also a two-time Minneapolis Star Tribune Player of the Year and a three-time First Team All-State selection.

A two-time Amateur Athletic Union Girls' Junior National Champion, Wittman led her Northern Lights club team to the U.S.A. Volleyball Junior Olympic Championships Open Division national semifinals in three straight years, including a finals appearance in 2009.

The 2008 PrepVolleyball.com National Junior of the Year, Wittman served as captain of the gold medal-winning 2008 U.S. Girls' Youth National Team at the NORCECA Girls' Youth Continental Championship and was a member of the U.S.A. Select Red Team that won the gold medal at the 2007 U.S.A. Volleyball High Performance Championships in the International Junior Division.

Wittman has maintained a 3.87 GPA. She is a member of her church community and the National Honor Society. She also serves on the school's student council in addition to coaching, officiating and instructing as a youth volleyball camp, clinic and summer league volunteer. She has also donated her time to the America Reads literacy outreach program, the Special Olympics, and at a fundraiser for Feed My Starving Children international humanitarian efforts.

Wittman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota next fall and will graduate from Shakopee High School early to begin attending spring semester collegiate classes.