

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Layli Ostovar of Mater Dei High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Ostovar as California's best high school volleyball player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, CA), April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, CA) and Campbell Flynn (2024-25, Mercy High School, MI).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Monarchs to a 35-5 record and the Open Division state tournament championships this past season. Ostovar recorded 312 kills and 229 digs, including a 15-kill, eight-dig effort in Mater Dei High School's 3-0 win over Rocklin High School in the Open Division state final. An American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection, Ostovar also compiled 37 blocks and 25 service aces while posting a .399 kill percentage. A two-time Orange County Player of the Year, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,168 kills and 871 digs.

Ostovar has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach and with HopeWalks, which raises awareness for children born with clubfoot. "Layli has a very high volleyball IQ and owns a complete game," said Morgan Wijay, head coach of Harvard-Westlake School. "She affects every part of the match and clearly elevates her team. Mater Dei High School looked balanced, organized and more dangerous when she was on the floor."

Ostovar has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Southern California this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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