

KING SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Emily McKee of King School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Connecticut 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 McKee as Connecticut'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 Vikings to a 23-0 record and a second straight New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A tournament championship this past season. McKee compiled 352 kills and 169 digs, including a 13-kill, seven-dig effort in King's 3-0 win over Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School in the NEPSAC tournament final. The NEPSAC Class A Player of the Year, McKee also recorded 44 assists, 41 service aces and 28 blocks while posting a .602 kill percentage and a .477 hitting percentage. She concluded her prep volleyball career as a four-time NEPSAC champion with 1,104 kills and an 85-1 overall record in uniform.

McKee has volunteered locally with Inspirica, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness in Stamford. She has also donated her time with the King Connections Club and as a youth volleyball coach for children with special needs. "Emily attacks from every position in the front row and is a tremendous defensive player in the back row," said Jeff Dyreson, head coach of the Loomis Chaffee School. "King School has been the best prep team in New England for the past few years and she's been a major factor."

McKee has maintained a weighted 4.24 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the College of William & Mary 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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