

## **HAYNES ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Marilyn Voitier of Haynes Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Louisiana 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 Voitier as Louisiana'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-8 senior middle blocker amassed 620 kills and 271 digs this past season, leading the Yellow Jackets (30-7) to the Division III state semifinals. Voitier also recorded 58 service aces and 28 blocks. A two-time District MVP and a two-time All-State selection, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,102 kills and 903 digs.

Voitier, who works two part-time jobs, is a member of the Haynes Academy Math National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. A member of her school's student council and Key Club, she has also volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach. "Marilyn's all-around game made her a constant impact player on both offense and defense," said Val Whitfield-Dunn, head coach of McGehee High School. "She has all the right intangibles you want in a competitive athlete. Her ability to shift the momentum of a match made her especially challenging to prepare for."

Voitier has maintained a weighted 4.83 GPA in the classroom. She will attend the University of Arkansas beginning 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](https://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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