

WASHINGTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kellan Schwinn of Washington Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Maine 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 Schwinn as Maine'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-6 senior outside hitter and defensive specialist led the Raiders to a 16-1 record and a second-straight Class B state championship this past season. Schwinn compiled 199 kills, 107 digs and 75 service aces, including a 24-kill, 17-dig, 10-ace effort in Washington's 3-2 win over York High School in the state final. A two-time Penobscot Valley Conference Player of the Year, she also amassed 23 assists while posting a .500 kill percentage and a .394 hitting percentage.

The four-year treasurer of her class at Washington Academy, Schwinn has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her school's student council and National Honor Society. A member of Teens 4 Christ, she has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "Kellan's presence on the court consistently changed the dynamic of matches," said Kevin Hill, head coach of York High School. "She influenced outcomes not just through her individual play, but through how opposing teams had to gameplan around her. She was a focal point offensively, a stabilizing presence defensively and someone who elevated the play of those around her."

Schwinn has maintained an A average in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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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