

WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Raina Chwialkowski of West Fargo High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade North Dakota 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 Chwialkowski as North Dakota'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-9 senior libero amassed 645 digs for an average of 5.9 per set this past season, leading the Packers (28-8) to the Class AA semifinals and a third-place finish in the tournament. Chwialkowski also recorded 79 assists and 70 service aces with a serving percentage of 96.2. Ranked as the nation's No. 47 recruit in her class by PrepVolleyball, she was an AVCA All-Region selection and concluded her prep volleyball career as a three-time All-State honoree.

Chwialkowski has volunteered locally on behalf of Eastwood Elementary School, the West Fargo Park District and West Fargo Relay for Life. She's a member of her school's Philanthropy and Youth (PAY) chapter and has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach at camps and clinics. "Raina has been the varsity libero since eighth grade and has been a member of the All-Conference team and All-State teams annually," said Woods Cross head coach Kelsey Titus. "She has been a team captain for three years and has competed at the highest levels in club and national training camps. She's always looking for ways to improve, but has never lost sight of being the best teammate she can be."

Chwialkowski has maintained a weighted 4.2 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Anderson inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Maryland, where she will play volleyball. She graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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