

## **DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Reese Shugart of Dorman High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Carolina 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 Shugart as South Carolina'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).

A returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter led the Cavaliers to a 30-6 record and a second straight Class 5A, Division 1 state championship this past season. Shugart compiled 452 kills and 246 digs, including a 28-kill, 13-dig effort in Dorman's 3-2 win over River Bluff High School in the state final. The two-time Class 5A Player of the Year and an American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American honoree, Shugart also amassed 57 service aces, 40 assists and 30 blocks while posting a .504 kill percentage and a .359 hitting percentage. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,059 kills.

A member of the Beta Club, Shugart has volunteered locally on behalf of Operation Christmas Child and the Special Olympics. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach. "Reese Shugart was absolutely incredible this season," said Kendall Davis, head coach of Boiling Springs High School. "Every time we played Dorman, we went in knowing we had to build our entire defensive gameplan around her. And even then, we rarely had any luck slowing her down."

Shugart has maintained a weighted 5.41 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at Auburn University 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](http://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://www.x.com/Gatorade).

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