

ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Reese Gregory of Essex High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Vermont 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 Gregory as Vermont'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-5 senior setter compiled 368 assists for an average of 7.4 per set this past season, leading the Hornets (17-0) to the Division 1 state championship. Gregory also recorded 74 digs and 48 service aces to earn Metro Division Offensive Player of the Year honors. She holds the state career record for assists with 1,270.

A member of the Essex High School Athletic Leadership Council, Gregory has volunteered locally at pumpkin carving events, toy drives and by reading to students at elementary schools. She has also donated her time helping to organize school events such as pep rallies, a coaches appreciation breakfast and teacher/staff appreciation games. "She gets to every second ball and makes a set that is user-friendly to any and all positions," said Bert Berthiaume, head coach at Bellows Free Academy. "She's hard to read as a defender, because once you think you have her figured out, she will change up her strategy. Reese is also a class act on the court, supporting her teammates and treating the opposition with respect."

Gregory has maintained a 3.32 GPA 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](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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