

MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VIRGINIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 9, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Laila Chadwick of Madison High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Virginia 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 Chadwick as Virginia'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-7 junior libero and outside hitter compiled 454 digs and 350 kills this past season, leading the Warhawks (28-4-1) to the Class 6 state semifinals. Chadwick also recorded 81 service aces and 46 assists while posting a .417 kill percentage and a .311 hitting percentage. The Class 6 Player of the Year, Chadwick is a two-time Class 6 First Team All-State selection. She concluded her junior year with 1,037 digs and 799 kills in her prep volleyball career.

Chadwick has volunteered locally with Jack and Jill of America, a youth mentorship organization, and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit childhood cancer research. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach and as part of multiple community service activities through her church. "Laila's strong work ethic, consistent effort and positive attitude are the core reasons our program has been so successful the past three seasons," said Kendal Hall, head coach of Madison High School. "She leads by example and sets a competitive tone only someone of her caliber can accomplish."

Chadwick has maintained a weighted 4.18 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Oklahoma beginning in the fall of 2027.

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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).

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