

## **LARAMIE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 Tessa Dodd of Laramie High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Wyoming 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 Dodd as Wyoming'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 6-foot-4 senior outside hitter compiled 492 kills for an average of 5.2 per set and led the Plainsmen (32-4) to 4A state semifinals this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Dodd also recorded 317 digs, 63 service aces and 42 blocks. She was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American and the 4A Player of the Year.

Dodd has volunteered locally as a referee for youth volleyball events. She has also donated her time to the Laramie High School Volleyball Food Drive and the Iverson Memorial Hospital Oncology golf fundraiser for cancer research. "Her resume is killer, and they got the ball to her so much that her stats really stand out," said Jeff Barkell, head coach at Kelley Walsh High School. "On that team, that was the best way to have success."

Dodd has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Kansas 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

###