

**RAMPART HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Anjelina Starck of Rampart High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year. Starck is the first Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rampart High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Starck as Colorado's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Starck joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler High School, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public High School, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter compiled 164 kills, 93 digs and 21 service aces through 11 matches, leading the Rams (10-1) to a berth in the Class 5A state tournament at the time of her selection. Starck was a 2020-21 Under Armour First Team All-American and she was an All-State honoree, as well as the Metro League Player of the Year as a junior.

Starck has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, a homeless shelter, youth volleyball programs and the Miracle League, an all volunteer, non-profit organization that gives children with disabilities a chance to play baseball as part of a team. "Anjelina Starck is a very strong player," said Molly Stowers, head coach at Pine Creek High. "She's an extremely versatile athlete who can excel at multiple positions. That Rampart team would not be the same without her."

Starck has maintained a 3.30 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Penn State University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Starck joins recent Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year Julianna Dalton (2019-20, Chaparral High School), McKenna Sciacca (2018-19, Lewis-Palmer High School), Keeley Davis (2017-18, Rock Canyon High School), and Michaela Putnicki (2016-17, Lewis-Palmer High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Starck has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Starck is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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