

**NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Sydney Yim of Newburyport High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year. Yim is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Newburyport 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 Yim as Massachusetts'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, Yim 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 senior outside hitter and setter recorded 178 assists and 102 kills this past season, leading the Clippers (9-3) to the Cape Ann League Tournament semifinals. Yim also compiled 67 digs and 41 service aces. A 2019 Division 2 First Team All-State selection, she is a two-time CAL Player of the Year and was also a 2019 Boston Globe and Boston Herald All-Scholastic.

A member of her school's Yearbook Club and Chemistry Club, Yim has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Sydney elevates everyone around her when she plays on the court," said Staci Sonke, head coach of Ipswich High. "Sydney is phenomenal at every skill involved in the game of volleyball, so it was always difficult to anticipate what she might do next."

Yim has maintained a weighted 3.83 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Purdue University beginning 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.

Yim joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Players of the Year Dasha Smolina (2019-20, Winchester High School), Riley James (2018-19 & 2016-17, Barnstable High School), and Emma Smallcomb (2017-18, Westborough High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Yim has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Yim 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, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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