

**WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 11, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **JoAnna Andrews** of **Williamstown High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year**. Andrews is the second Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Williamstown 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 court, distinguishes Andrews as New Jersey's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Andrews joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert 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 5-foot-4 junior setter led the Braves to a 37-0 record and the Group 4 state championship this past season. Andrews compiled 784 assists 113 digs, 32 kills and 32 service aces, including 25 assists and five digs in Williamstown's 2-0 win over Ridgewood High in the state final. The NJ.com Player of the Year, Andrews also led Williamstown to the Tournament of Champions title to cap a perfect season. She concluded her junior year with 900 assists in her prep volleyball career.

Andrews has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and youth volleyball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "JoAnna is always calm and confident, and she's the last player to get rattled," said Jeff Hood, head coach of Washington Township High School. "Her teammates benefitted from that energy. She sets the example of what a great teammate is."

Andrews has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Andrews joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Players of the Year MacKenzie Wiggins (2020-21, Sparta High School), Anna Morris (2019-20 & 2018-19, Immaculate Heart Academy), and Julia Morris (2017-18, Immaculate Heart Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Andrews has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Andrews is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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