

**PORTER-GAUD SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Marianna Singletary** of **Porter-Gaud School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year**. Singletary is the first Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Porter-Gaud 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 Singletary as South Carolina'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, Singletary 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 6-foot-5 senior middle blocker led the Cyclones to a 39-7-2 record and the South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A championship this past season. Singletary amassed 745 kills and 101 blocks to go with 206 digs and 71 service aces. A First Team Under Armour All-American, she was also the SCISA Player of the Year and a MaxPreps Second Team All-American. She is ranked as the nation's No. 9 prospect in the Class of 2022 by PrepVolleyball.com.

Singletary has volunteered locally on behalf of the Lowcountry Food Bank, youth sports camps, community cleanup initiatives and oyster bed restoration efforts. "Marianna Singletary is an amazing six rotation player," said Garret Talarczyk, head coach at Hilton Head Island High School. "Offense, defense, serving, blocking—she is the full package. She's a clutch player too, very hard to slow down."

Singletary has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Texas 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.

Singletary joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Lauren McCutcheon (2020-21, J.L. Mann Academy), Sophie Fischer (2019-20 & 2018-19, Nation Ford High School), and Thayer Hall (2017-18, Dorman High School), 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, Singletary 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. Singletary 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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