

**BIDDEFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 13, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Danielle Emerson** of **Biddeford High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year**. Emerson is the fourth Gatorade Maine Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Biddeford 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 Emerson as Maine'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, Emerson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School, Calif.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.), Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8 junior outside hitter and setter led the Tigers to an 18-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Emerson recorded 148 kills, 113 assists, 94 digs, 53 service aces and 16 blocks, and she tallied 15 digs, 12 kills and seven assists in Biddeford High School's 3-0 win over Gorham High School in the state final. She is a two-time SMAA Class A Conference MVP.

Emerson has volunteered locally with Special Surfers, a non-profit organization that provides people with special needs the opportunity to surf during the summer. She has also donated her time as a youth mentor and volleyball coach. "Dani had multiple roles and responsibilities; in each area, whether it was setting, defensive positioning or running the offensive attack, Dani was the engine of the team," said Larry Nichols, assistant coach of Falmouth High School. "What made Dani so special on the court is the fact that she made everybody around her better."

Emerson has maintained a weighted 3.87 GPA 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.

Emerson joins recent Gatorade Maine Volleyball Players of the Year Sophie Dickson (2021-22, Yarmouth High School), and Annika Hester (2020-21, 2019-20, & 2018-19, Falmouth High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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