

**PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 13, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Morgan Casey** of **Portsmouth High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year**. Casey is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Portsmouth 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 Casey as Rhode Island'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, Casey 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 6-foot senior middle hitter led the Patriots to a 13-7 record and a berth in the Division 1A semifinals this past season. Casey recorded 197 kills to go with 43 blocks, 62 digs and 30 aces, posting a .394 hitting percentage and .491 kill percentage on the attack. She was a First-Team All-State by the Rhode Island Volleyball Coaches Association and First-Team All-Division 1A selection and was named to the 1A All-Tournament Team.

Casey has volunteered locally on behalf of Special Olympics, working one-on-one with athletes, including her uncle, a 20-year Special Olympics veteran, to prepare them for their respective competitions. She also has donated her time to the James L. Maher Center, which employs adults with disabilities and helps them become more independent in addition to serving as a counselor for youth basketball camps in Portsmouth. "Morgan is a very strong player in the front row—great leaping and blocking ability and lateral movement," said West Warwick High School head coach Josh Malloy. "She affects opponents' swings out of the middle and on the outside. Smart player who can really put a ball down on a good set."

Casey has maintained a 4.19 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Casey joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Players of the Year Abby Ryno (2021-22, North Kingstown High School), Lauren Milani (2020-21, Cranston East High School), Keri Spitler (2019-20, North Kingstown High School), and Maile Somera (2018-19, Barrington 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.