

**VIERA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Izzy Starck** of **Viera High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year**. Starck is the first Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Viera High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Starck as Florida’s best high school volleyball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Harper Murray (2022-23, Skyline High School, Mich.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Calif.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 2022-23 Gatorade Colorado State Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter and setter recorded 434 kills and 414 assists this past season, leading the Hawks (27-5) to the Class 6A state title game. Starck also compiled 354 digs, 52 service aces and 27 blocks while posting a .498 kill percentage and a .338 hitting percentage. Ranked as the nation’s No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepDig.com, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,831 assists, 1,275 kills and 1,070 digs.

Starck has served local communities by feeding and packing food for the unhoused at Three Squares Food Bank, the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and Catholic Charities Soup Kitchen. She has also donated her time by organizing and conducting a fundraiser to benefit the Side-Out Foundation, supporting breast cancer research and treatment. In addition, she’s volunteered extensively as a youth volleyball coach and instructor as well as recording skill and drill sessions for SportsEdTV. “Izzy is a game-changer,” said Angie Patrick, head coach of Merritt Island High School. “She can surely terminate a ball, but her contributions as a setter helped them the most. She put a lot of balls ‘in system’ that most setters wouldn’t be able to.”

Starck has maintained a weighted 3.70 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Starck inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at Penn State University, where she will play volleyball. She graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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.

Starck joins recent Gatorade Florida Volleyball Players of the Year Jordyn Byrd (2022-23 & 2021-22, Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School), Paris Thompson (2020-21, Fort Myers High School), and Annie Cate Fitzpatrick (2019-20, Trinity Catholic High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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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