

**PHILIPSBURG-OSCEOLA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Reese Hazelton** of **Philipsburg-Osceola Senior High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year**. Hazelton is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Philipsburg-Osceola Senior 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 Hazelton as Pennsylvania'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 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter led the Mountaineers to a 26-0 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Hazelton amassed 692 kills and 385 digs, including a 40-kill, 23-dig effort in her team's 3-1 win over Trinity High in the state final. A four-time Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-State selection, Hazelton also tallied 63 service aces, 40 assists and 37 blocks while posting a .503 kill percentage and a .400 hitting percentage. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,497 kills and 1,444 digs.

An active member of the YMCA of Centre County, Hazelton has volunteered locally as a Mountie Mentor to help freshmen students during their first year of high school. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Reese had a large impact on her team and is the most dangerous player out there," said Laurie Corcoran, head coach of Allentown Central Catholic High School. "She is dynamic on the court. That team would have never had the success it had the past several years if she were not there."

Hazelton has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Indiana 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.

Hazelton joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Volleyball Players of the Year Mia Tuman (2022-23 & 2021-22, North Allegheny Senior High School), Paige Morningstar (2020-21, North Allegheny High School) and Macy Van Den Elzen (2019-20, Emmaus 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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