

**NORTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Ella Maack** of **North Kingstown High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year**. Maack is the seventh Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Kingstown 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 Maack as Rhode Island’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 senior setter and outside hitter led the Skippers to an 18-1 record and a Division I state championship this past season. Maack recorded 520 assists, averaging nine per set, to go along with 165 digs, 77 kills, 51 aces and 25 blocks. She was named the Rhode Island Coaches Association’s Division I Player of the Year and the Division I state tournament MVP.

Maack has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics, Best Buddies and as a tutor for elementary school students. “She has a high volleyball IQ and distributes the ball consistently to locations that make her own hitters better,” said Chariho head coach Kathy McGeehan. “North Kingstown has proven themselves for a long time with her at the helm.”

Maack has maintained a 3.51 weighted GPA in the classroom. At the time of her selection, she remained undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Maack joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Players of the Year Morgan Casey (2022-23, Portsmouth High School), Abby Ryno (2021-22, North Kingstown High School), Lauren Milani (2020-21, Cranston East High School), and Keri Spittler (2019-20, North Kingstown 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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