

**DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Carly O'Brien** of **Dorman High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year**. O'Brien is the third Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dorman 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 O'Brien as South Carolina'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 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter led the Cavaliers to a 35-7 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. O'Brien amassed 497 kills and 454 digs, posting a .466 kill percentage and a .361 hitting percentage. O'Brien also tallied 51 service aces, 39 assists and 25 blocks while being named the Class 5A Player of the Year. A libero during her first two years as a Cavalier, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,036 kills and 1,541 digs.

A member of her school's Beta and World Language clubs, O'Brien has volunteered locally with special needs students at Dorman High School and as a youth volleyball coach. "Carly is one of the smartest volleyball players I've ever seen," said Mindy Salley, head coach of Hillcrest High School. "She sees the court well and knows where she needs to attack the ball. She's a force we cannot ignore when she's in the back row either."

O'Brien has maintained a weighted 4.62 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Liberty 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.

O'Brien joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Kennedy Martin (2022-23, Nation Ford High School), Marianna Singletary (2021-22, Porter-Gaud School), Lauren McCutcheon (2020-21, J.L. Mann Academy), and Sophie Fischer (2019-20, Nation Ford 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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