

**HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Gabi Zachariassen** of **Harrisburg High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Zachariassen is the third Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Harrisburg 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 Zachariassen as South Dakota’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-0 sophomore outside hitter led the Tigers (31-0) to the Class AA state title this past season, amassing 529 kills on the strength of a .442 kill percentage. Zachariassen added 238 digs, 31 blocks, 26 aces and 327 service receptions, posting a 91.3 serve-serve percentage. A Class AA First Team All-State selection, she set the school record for single-season kills in 2023.

Zachariassen has volunteered locally on behalf of the sheriff’s department in association with Thrivent. An active member of her church community, where she is an altar server, she has also donated her time as a youth volleyball coach and by fundraising to benefit breast cancer patients. “Gabi dominated in the state’s high class this past season,” said O’Gorman High School head coach Cale Hecht. “In my opinion, no one in the state came close to her level in 2023.”

Zachariassen has maintained a 3.75 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Zachariassen joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Bergen Reilly (2022-23, 2021-22, & 2020-21, O’Gorman High School) and Kadye Fernholz (2019-20, Miller 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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