

**PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 8, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **MacKenna Halfin** of **Philip Barbour High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year**. Halfin is the first Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Philip Barbour 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 Halfin as West Virginia’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-11 junior outside hitter led the Colts to a record of 44-10-7 and a berth in the Class AA title game this past season, amassing 605 kills and 491 digs. Halfin added 96 blocks and 37 service aces while compiling a hitting percentage of .351. Named captain of the Class AA All-State team, she was also a postseason All-Tournament Team honoree and the West Virginia Sportswriters Association Player of the Year.

The three-year president of her class, Halfin has volunteered locally on behalf of ReachU Read Aloud, Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries and Lil’ Moe’s restaurant. She has also donated her time to the Coal Miners luncheon and the Belington Middle School Field Day in addition to serving as a youth volleyball and swimming coach. “Halfin is the backbone of Philip Barbour,” said Hedgesville High School head coach Allison Whitford. “She’s a six-rotation player that makes her team better in all aspects and leads in most statistical categories. She’s a dominant hitter who can, at times, completely take over matches.”

Halfin has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Halfin joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Volleyball Players of the Year Meg Williams (2022-23, Shady Spring High School), Hannah Howard (2021-22, Musselman High School), Skylar Yates (2020-21, Hedgesville High School), and Skye Stokes (2019-20, Oak Glen 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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