

**BOB JONES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kennedy Vaughn** of **Bob Jones High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year**. Vaughn is the second Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bob Jones High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Vaughn as Alabama’s best high school volleyball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Ca.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Ca.) and Ayden Ames (2023-24, Prosper High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Patriots (52-10) to the 7A state championship match this past season. Vaughn amassed 714 kills and 354 digs to earn American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-American honors. She also added 65 aces and 56 blocks on the year and will graduate as a three-time All-State selection.

Vaughn has volunteered locally by visiting residents at an elderly care facility in addition to visiting elementary schools to connect with younger students. She has also donated her time by cleaning desks and floors at elementary schools before the first day of school. “We were not able to stop Kennedy Vaughn,” said Gretchen Boykin, Spanish Fort High School head coach. “We would put a bigger block in to try to slow her down and it was like we had no block there at all.”

Vaughn has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Alabama-Birmingham this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Vaughn joins recent Gatorade Alabama Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Parant (2023-24, Mountain Brook High School), Anna Grace Sparks (2022-23, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), Audrey Rothman (2021-22, Spain Park High School) and Rya McKinnon (2020-21, Hoover 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.