

HACKETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 **Michaelyn Freeman of Hackett High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year**. Freeman is the first Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hackett 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 Freeman as Arkansas’ 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 6-foot junior outside hitter led the Hornets to a 36-0 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Freeman amassed a state-record 455 kills while posting a kill percentage of .582 and a hitting percentage of .440. She also recorded 213 digs, 71 service aces and 26 assists. The MVP of the Class 2A state championship match, she concluded her junior year with 933 kills in her prep volleyball career. Her sister, Makenzie, was the 2023-24 Gatorade Softball Player of the Year in Arkansas.

A member of her local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Freeman has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Michaelyn Freeman was probably the best hitter I’ve seen in my 13 years of coaching volleyball,” said Dennis Truxler, head coach of Quitman High School. “Her approach and the velocity of her hits were amazing. The impact she had on her team’s success was immeasurable.”

Freeman has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked No. 1 in her class. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Tulsa beginning in the fall of 2026.

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.

Freeman joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Players of the Year Regan Harp (2023-24, Fayetteville High School), Kennedy Phelan (2022-23 & 2021-22, Fayetteville High School) and Hannah Hogue (2020-21, Southside Schoolside 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.