

**CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Mae Kordas** of **Cathedral Catholic High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year**. Kordas is the second Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cathedral Catholic 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 Kordas as California’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 6-foot-3 senior middle, outside and right-side hitter led the Dons to a 46-3 record and both the San Diego Section Division 1 postseason title along with the Open Division state championship this past season. Kordas compiled 469 kills, 118 blocks and 108 digs, including an 18-kill, seven-dig, five-block effort in Cathedral Catholic High School’s 3-0 win over Archbishop Mitty High School in the Open Division state final. A MaxPreps First Team All-American, she also recorded 32 service aces while posting a .509 kill percentage and a .397 hitting percentage on the year.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Kordas has volunteered locally with Feeding San Diego. She has also donated her time on behalf of the Cathedral Catholic High School campus ministry and as a youth volleyball coach. “Mae is extraordinary,” said Nick Pabarcus, head coach of the Academy of Our Lady of Peace. “Routinely, she would play out of position and frankly dominated in every role they had her in. She has a selfless approach and when pressed, she answered with top-tier athleticism along with amazing court sense.”

Kordas has maintained a weighted 4.29 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to attend Yale University, where she will play volleyball, beginning 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.

Kordas joins recent Gatorade California Volleyball Players of the Year Charlie Fuerbringer (2023-24, Mira Costa High School), Julia Blyashov (2022-23, Cathedral Catholic High School), Elia Rubin (2021-22, Marymount High School) and Jessica Smith (2020-21, Aliso Niguel 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).