

**KING SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 **Caroline Ellis** of **King School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year**. Ellis is the first Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from King 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 Ellis as Connecticut’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-1 senior outside hitter led the Vikings to a 21-0 record and the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A tournament title this past season. Ellis recorded 279 kills and 137 digs, including a 20-kill, eight-dig effort in King’s 3-0 win over Phillips Exeter in the NEPSAC championship match. Also the NEPSAC Class A Player of the Year, Ellis compiled 40 assists and 29 service aces while posting a .526 kill percentage and a .315 hitting percentage at net. A two-time NEPSAC Class B Player of the Year, she concluded her prep volleyball career with 1,002 kills and will graduate as a four-time NEPSAC champion.

Ellis has volunteered locally at Tim Tebow’s Night to Shine, a prom experience for students with special needs. She has also donated her time on behalf of her school’s Building One Community holiday event, which distributes food and gifts to families in need. “Caroline definitely has the heaviest arm in the state,” said Mark ‘Frog’ Ogilvie, head coach of St. Luke’s School. “Offensively, she’s a huge threat who draws a lot of attention from blockers, which makes the rest of her teammates have a lot more success because teams are so focused on her. She’s a complete and well-rounded six-rotation outside hitter.”

Ellis has maintained a weighted 3.08 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Mississippi 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.

Ellis joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Volleyball Players of the Year Aubrey Moore (2023-24, Darien High School), Leilani Gillespie (2022-23, Darien High School), Liana Sarkissian (2021-22, Greenwich High School) and Emma Appleman (2020-21, Guilford 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.