

**RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Ema Djordjevic** of **Richard Montgomery High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Maryland Volleyball Player of the Year**. Djordjevic is the first Gatorade Maryland Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Richard Montgomery 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 Djordjevic as Maryland’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 senior setter and right-side hitter led the Rockets to a 24-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Djordjevic recorded 287 assists and 247 kills, posting a .555 kill percentage and a .461 hitting percentage at net. Also the PrepDig State Player of the Year, she added 126 digs, 72 service aces and 51 blocks on the year.

A member of the Richard Montgomery High School Black Student Union, Djordjevic is the vice president of her school’s Healthcare Access for All club. She has volunteered locally as both a youth volleyball coach and referee. “Ema is probably the best player I’ve had to coach against in the last 10 years,” said Cindy Hillard, head coach of Winston Churchill High School. “Her volleyball IQ is at a genius level and her drive to win is off the charts. She’s one of the building blocks in the foundation of the RM program.”

Djordjevic has maintained a weighted 4.85 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County 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.

Djordjevic joins recent Gatorade Maryland Volleyball Players of the Year Emmi Sellman (2023-24 & 2022-23, The Academy of the Holy Cross), Zaria Ragler (2021-22, Arundel High School) and Brooke Watts (2020-21, Arundel 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).