

## **CARDINAL GIBBONS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Genevieve Harris** of **Cardinal Gibbons High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year**. Harris is the third Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Gibbons 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 Harris as North Carolina’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 junior setter led the Crusaders to a 22-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Harris amassed 578 assists, 125 digs and 77 kills on the year, tallying 56 assists in the team’s 3-1 win over Marvin Ridge High School in the state final. Voted MVP of the state tournament and an American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American selection, Harris also recorded 37 service aces and 37 blocks. She concluded her junior year with 1,935 assists in her prep volleyball career.

Harris has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach. “Not only is Genevieve a competitor, she is a fierce leader on the court,” said Kalee Vanderhorst, head coach of Broughton High School. “She knows exactly how to get her team out of slumps and will do everything in her power to change the direction of the game for the Crusaders.”

Harris has maintained a weighted 4.23 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Texas 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.

Harris joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Avery Scoggins (2023-24, Middle Creek High School), Kiarrah Horne (2022-23, Millbrook High School) and Riley Buckley (2021-22 & 2020-21, North Raleigh Christian Academy), 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://www.x.com/Gatorade).