

**WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Raina Chwialkowski** of **West Fargo High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Chwialkowski is the third Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Fargo 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 Chwialkowski as North Dakota’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-9 junior libero amassed 595 digs at a rate of 5.2 per set this past season, leading the Packers (21-14) to the Class A state final. Ranked as the nation’s No. 46 prospect in her class by PrepVolleyball, Chwialkowski added 82 assists and 63 service aces on the year. She was an AVCA Second Team All-American as well as a PrepVolleyball All-Midwest Region selection.

Chwialkowski has volunteered locally on behalf of the Relay for Life and the Philanthropy and Youth organization in addition to donating her time to Fraser Ltd and the Fargo All-Stars Family. “Raina exemplifies what coaches look for at her position while simultaneously performing her duties as a leader and raising the confidence of her peers,” said Hadley Plank, head coach at Horace High School. “She sets the standard of play at the libero position in this state. She exceeds all desirable characteristics of a leader and a high-performing student-athlete, on and off the court.

Chwialkowski has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of Maryland 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.

Chwialkowski joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Makenna Nold (2023-24, Jamestown High School), Logan Nissley (2022-23 & 2021-22, Bismarck Century High School) and Julia Fitterer (2020-21, Bismarck Century 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).