

## **HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH 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 **Gabi Zachariasen** of **Harrisburg High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year**. Zachariasen is the third Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Harrisburg 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 Zachariasen as South 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 6-foot junior outside hitter recorded 403 kills and 221 digs this past season, leading the Tigers (31-0) to the Class AA state title and the No. 16 ranking in the national MaxPreps Top 25. Zachariasen, who added 32 blocks and 32 service aces, is ranked as the nation’s No. 49 prospect in her class by PrepVolleyball and she’s the state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year. She will enter her senior campaign as a two-time All-State selection and three-time state champion.

Zachariasen has volunteered locally by coaching and instructing youth volleyball players at camps and clinics. She has also donated her time as a youth volleyball referee in the Big Sioux Volleyball League. “Gabi is an extremely talented volleyball player and she has worked tirelessly both during the high school season and beyond to be the best player she can be,” said Jean O’Hara, head coach at Chester Area School. “Even more important than her own set of skills on the court is the leadership and sense of balance she brings to her team. She’s the consummate team player and constantly looking for ways to make her teammates better. She understands the level of dedication it takes to achieve consistency at a high level and she brings that tenacity to the court with her every single day.”

Zachariasen has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play volleyball at the University of South Dakota 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.

Two-time winner Zachariasen joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Bergen Reilly (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, O’Gorman 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).