

**PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Macaria Spears** of **Prestonwood Christian Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year**. Spears is the first Gatorade Texas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Prestonwood Christian Academy.

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 Spears as Texas’ 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-3 senior outside hitter amassed 649 kills on the strength of a .428 hitting percentage this past season, leading the Lions (37-2) to a third straight TAPPS 6A state championship. Averaging 6.2 kills per set, Spears added 276 digs, 89 blocks and 44 service aces. She was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American and was a TAPPS First Team All-State selection.

Spears has volunteered locally on behalf of Special Olympics. She has also donated her time to the Skyline Juniors Volleyball Club as a youth coach. “Macaria Spears will stand as the best athlete and player I have ever coached,” said Prestonwood Christian Academy head coach Ryan Mitchell. “She wants to lead and is a student of her craft. Macaria is a superstar already and she has not even come close to reaching her potential.”

Spears has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. Taking advantage of NCAA early signing rules, Spears inked a financial-aid agreement that paved the way for her to enroll at the University of Texas, where she will play volleyball. She graduated from high school in December and will attend classes in the spring semester.

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 Spears joins recent Gatorade Texas Volleyball Players of the Year Ayden Ames (2023-24, Prosper High School), Averi Carlson (2021-22, Lovejoy High School) and Ally Batenhorst (2020-21, Seven Lakes 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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).