

**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Hannah Knickerbocker** of **Essex High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Vermont Volleyball Player of the Year**. Knickerbocker is the seventh Gatorade Vermont Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Knickerbocker as Vermont’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-7 junior outside hitter led the Hornets to an 18-0 record and their fourth consecutive state championship this past season. Knickerbocker recorded 175 kills, 152 digs and 45 aces. She was named Vermont Metro Division’s 2024 Offensive Player of the Year and is now a three-time state champion. Also a talented tennis player, she reached the state semifinals as a sophomore in 2023.

Knickerbocker has volunteered locally with her weekly church group and is a member of Essex High School’s athletic leadership club. “Hannah is an incredibly talented player who led our team with her exceptional attacking, passing and defense,” said Jen Liguori, head coach at Essex High School. “She made varsity as a freshman and has been an integral part of three consecutive state championship wins. She brings her tenacity to the court, which organically inspires her teammates to play harder, leading to greater team success.”

Knickerbocker has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year 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.

Knickerbocker joins recent Gatorade Vermont Volleyball Players of the Year Izzy Nerad (2023-24, Essex High School), Jocelyn Ray (2022-23, Essex High School), Jazmin Munson (2021-22, Essex High School) and Molly Ardren (2020-21, Essex 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.