

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 13, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Abigail Casper of Northwest Catholic High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Casper as Connecticut’s best high school girls basketball player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, IL) Paige Bueckers (2020-21, Hopkins High School, MN) and Aaliyah Chavez (2024-25, Monterey High School, TX).

At the time of her selection, the 6-foot senior forward had led the Lions to a 23-1 record and a berth in Connecticut’s Division I state tournament. Casper averaged 20.2 points and 10.2 rebounds through 21 games, shooting 68.6 percent from the floor and 46.8 from beyond the arc. A three-time state champion and two-time All-State selection, Casper became the leading scorer in Northwest Catholic High School history for both boys and girls, surpassing the previous mark of 1,911 points. She also played keeper for Lions’ state finalist soccer team.

A National Honor Society member, Casper has volunteered with youth basketball programs in her hometown of Cromwell, CT. She has also served as part of Northwest Catholic High School’s student council, yearbook club and stock market club. “She has a very complete basketball package,” said Kyle Chaves, Simsbury High School head coach. “Inside and out, she’s a matchup problem. She can handle, pass and shoot from the perimeter as well as score inside. She has a very high basketball IQ and is very good at staying even-keeled throughout a contest by handling the emotions of a game.”

Casper has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the College of the Holy Cross this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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.

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