

**WAUBONSIE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Danyella Mporokoso of Waubonsie Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Illinois 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 Mporokoso as Illinois’ 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).

The 5-foot-7 senior guard averaged 28.0 points and 5.4 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Warriors (32-4) to the Class 4A Tournament Super-Sectional round. Mporokoso also averaged 3.3 assists and 2.0 steals, totalling 1,007 points for the season. The 2025 Naperville Sun Player of the Year, Mporokoso is ranked as the nation’s No. 66 recruit in the Class of 2025 by ESPN. She concluded her prep basketball career with 2,979 points.

Mporokoso has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and she has donated her time as a youth basketball coach. “Danyella is one of the top competitors I’ve seen as a coach over the past 31 years,” said Abe Carreto, head coach of Oswego East High School. “Not only is she super-talented but she has that grinder mentality to stay ferocious at all times.”

Mporokoso has maintained a weighted 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Illinois State University 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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