

CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA 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 Gracyn Gilliard of Center Grove High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Indiana 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 Gilliard as Indiana’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).

The 5-foot-11 senior guard and forward led the Trojans to a 29-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Gilliard averaged 25.6 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.7 steals and 1.9 assists per game, including 23 points, nine rebounds and six steals in Center Grove’s 56-53 win over Norwell High School in the state title game. The 2025 Johnson County Player of the Year and a 2024-25 Indiana Junior All-Star, Gilliard is a cousin of Trayce Jackson-Davis, the 2018-19 Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. She concluded her prep basketball career with 1,983 points.

Gilliard has volunteered locally for the Center Grove Student Athletic Leadership Team and as a peer tutor for special needs students. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Gracyn is a true three-level scorer,” said Curt Bengel, head coach of Plainfield High School. “There are not many players who are willing to play in the post, be effective there, and still consistently shoot the 3. Beyond her skill set, her maturity and composure on the floor stand out as well.”

Gilliard has maintained a weighted 4.08 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Davidson College 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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