

## **OLATHE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Eve Long of Olathe South High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kansas 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 Long as Kansas’ 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-3 junior forward had led the Falcons to a 20-5 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament quarterfinals. Long averaged 32.7 points, 9.8 rebounds, 2.3 steals, 1.4 blocks and 1.0 assists through 25 games. A Naismith Award Girls Player of the Year Midseason Team selection, she was the Sunflower League Player of the Year and is ranked as the nation’s No. 8 recruit in the Class of 2027 by ESPN and 247Sports. She entered the state quarterfinals with 1,488 points in her prep basketball career.

Long has volunteered locally at Vacation Bible School and as a youth basketball coach. She has also donated her time with the Falcon Flight Crew, Olathe South High School’s school spirit squad. “Eve Long is on another level,” said Doug Archer, head coach of Shawnee Mission East High School. “Her production is insane. She is extremely hard to stop when she has the ball in her hands because of her size and skill level. She can single-handedly win games.”

Long has maintained a weighted 3.83 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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](http://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://x.com/Gatorade).

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