

## **BULLIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Ivanna Wilson Manyacka of Bullis School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Maryland 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 Wilson Manyacka as Maryland’s best high school girls basketball player, and she’s also been selected as a finalist for the distinguished Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced later this month. Wilson Manyacka 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 6-foot-2 junior guard led the Bulldogs to a 24-6 record and the Maryland Private School State Tournament title this past season. Wilson Manyacka averaged 20.7 points, 11.5 rebounds, 3.2 steals, 1.9 assists and 1.9 blocks per game, including eight points, 14 rebounds, six steals and four blocks in Bullis’ 62-50 win over Bishop McNamara High School in the state final. One of five national finalists for the Naismith Award, Wilson Manyacka was a member of the USA Basketball Under-17 Women’s National Team as a 14-year-old. She is ranked as the No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2027 by ESPN and 247Sports.

Wilson Manyacka has volunteered locally with the Chinese Youth Club, and she has donated her time as a youth basketball coach. “Ivanna is terrific – one of the best players I’ve ever coached against,” said Mike McCarthy, head coach of Georgetown Visitation School. “She has size and athleticism and tremendous ability. She can handle the ball, rebound and shoot with the best of them. She can score inside, outside and mid-range.”

Wilson Manyacka has maintained a B-plus average 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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