

## **PARK HILL SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Addison Bjorn of Park Hill South High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Missouri 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 Bjorn as Missouri’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 state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 senior guard/forward averaged 25.7 points and 14.3 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Panthers (22-7) to the Class 6, District 8 championship game. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection and a national Naismith Award semifinalist, Bjorn also averaged 2.5 assists, 1.9 blocks and 1.8 steals per game. Ranked as the nation’s No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN, she concluded her prep basketball career with 2,380 points and 1,192 rebounds.

A member of the Park Hill South High School student council, Bjorn has volunteered locally with People of All Colors Succeed, a non-profit that focuses on self-empowerment for students. “Addison’s talent is undeniable – her skillset, her high IQ, court vision and leadership,” said Delischa Anderson, head coach of Oak Park High School. “She makes her teammates that much better. Her type of greatness is rare to see at this level.”

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