

**RED BANK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE  
NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Addy Nyemchek of Red Bank Catholic High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade New Jersey 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 Nyemchek as New Jersey’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).

At the time of her selection, the 6-foot-1 senior guard and forward had led the Caseys to a 28-2 record and a berth in the South Jersey Non-Public A Tournament championship game. Nyemchek averaged 19.9 points, 7.4 rebounds, 4.0 assists, 2.9 steals and 1.4 blocks through 30 games. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection, she’s ranked as the nation’s No. 28 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN and entered the South Jersey final with 1,705 points in her prep basketball career.

A member of the Red Bank Catholic Casey Spirit Club, Nyemchek also participates in the Women in STEM group. She has donated her time as a school ambassador as well. “Addy is an exceptional player,” said Adam Merklinger, head coach of Red Bank Regional High School. “She is a major driving force for the success that RBC has had this year. What stands out is her willingness to let the game come to her and not force the issue. She is very patient and will get her teammates involved when she doesn’t have an option for herself.”

Nyemchek has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Indiana 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](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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