

MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Alliyah Bell of Minot High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade North Dakota 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 Bell as North Dakota’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-2 senior forward had led the Majettes to a 24-1 record and a berth in North Dakota’s Class AA state tournament quarterfinals. Bell averaged 28 points, 11.9 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 2.5 assists through 24 games while shooting 57.1 percent from the field and 82.9 percent at the line. She scored a game-high 36 points in Minot’s West Region 74-64 district final win over Century High School. The state’s two-time reigning Gatorade Player of the Year, she entered the WDA tournament with 2,973 career points, making her the leading scorer in North Dakota Class AA history. She’s ranked as the nation’s No. 36 recruit in her class by ESPN.

Bell has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and Dream Catchers Baseball, a program for players with developmental disabilities. “LeeLee is just at a different level altogether,” said Jim Petrik, head coach at Legacy High School. “Her size, strength and ability to shoot sets her apart. I’m not sure we’ll see another player like her for some time.”

Bell has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Oklahoma 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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