

BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 Sydney Mobley of Big Walnut High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Ohio 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 Mobley as Ohio’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 junior forward had led the Eagles to a 23-4 record and a berth in the Division II state semifinals. Mobley averaged 20.2 points, 9.7 rebounds, 2.7 steals, 2.4 assists and 1.6 blocks through 27 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was the 2024-25 Capital Division Player of the Year and the Columbus Dispatch Girls Basketball Athlete of the Year.

Mobley has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Sydney is an elite scorer who can impact the game at all three levels—she can finish at the rim, knock down mid-range shots and stretch the defense from beyond the arc,” said Stephanie Jones, head coach of Worthington Kilbourne High School. “What makes her especially difficult to defend is her efficiency and composure. She doesn’t force shots and has a very high basketball IQ.”

Mobley has maintained a weighted 3.13 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 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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