

KANAB HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 Rylee Little of Kanab High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Utah 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 Little as Utah’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 6-foot-5 senior center led the Cowboys to a 25-2 record and the Class 2A state title this past season. Little averaged 20.9 points, 13.2 rebounds, 3.3 blocks, 2.0 assists and 1.8 steals, including 17 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and five blocks in a 54-29 win over Enterprise High School in the state final. The victory marked the program’s fourth championship in five years. A four-time First Team All-State selection, Little is also a two-time Class 2A state tournament MVP. She concluded her prep basketball career with 1,766 points and 1,144 rebounds.

A member of the Kanab High School student government as a freshman and sophomore, Little has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Rylee Little is an amazing basketball player,” said Lance Jones, head coach of Enterprise High School. “She is a true leader for her team. She can not only score inside, but also knock down the outside shot as well. She is very unselfish and understands how important her teammates are.”

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