

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Oliviyah Edwards of Lincoln High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Washington 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 Edwards as Washington’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-4 senior power forward averaged 30 points, 25 rebounds and 4 assists per game this past season, leading the Abes to the regional round of the Class 3A postseason. Edwards exploded for 38 points in Lincoln’s season-ending loss to Lakeside and also dropped 40 against North Thurston as well as 48 vs. Gig Harbor this year. The McDonald’s All-American selection is ranked as the nation’s No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN.

Edwards has volunteered locally at the Eastside Community Center and the Bethlehem Baptist Church Holiday Give Away, helping families in need. She has also donated her time locally by helping to organize and lead multiple youth basketball camps. “On the court, Oliviyah has been blessed with a tremendous amount of talent,” stated Chris Spivey, head coach of Annie Wright High School. “Oliviyah’s desire to reach her full potential, combined with her work ethic, has been the main reason she’s excelled on the basketball court as one of the most highly sought after student-athletes in the entire country. Oliviyah’s versatility and skill make her a very difficult match up for opposing teams. Even while facing double- and triple-teams, she has managed to positively affect the game in several statistical categories, which can be very difficult for most young players to achieve.”

Edwards has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Tennessee 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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