

ARROWHEAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Natalie Kussow of Arrowhead High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Wisconsin 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 Kussow as Wisconsin'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 senior guard had led the Warhawks to a 26-2 record and a berth in the Division 1 state tournament semifinal. Kussow averaged 26.9 points, 7.6 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 3.0 steals and 1.1 blocks through 28 games. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Kussow is ranked as the nation's No. 26 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports. She entered the state semifinals with 2,736 points in her prep basketball career.

Kussow has volunteered locally with Journey21, a community for adults with learning disabilities. She has also donated her time by singing at nursing homes and as a youth basketball coach. "Natalie has proven herself against the state's best," said Rick Witte, head coach of Mukwonago High School. "She is very difficult to contain. She can shoot it and finish at the rim. Natalie also causes issues everywhere defensively."

Kussow has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Minnesota 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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