

**LENAWEE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Bree Salenbien of Lenawee Christian School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Salenbien is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lenawee Christian School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Salenbien as Michigan's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Salenbien joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-3 senior guard and forward averaged 25.6 points and 11.1 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Cougars (13-4) to the Division 3 regional semifinals. Salenbien also chipped in 4.6 assists, 3.4 blocks and 2.7 steals per game less than a year after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in Lenawee's final game of the 2019-20 season. A three-time Division 4 Player of the Year, she concluded her prep basketball career with 2,059 points and 920 rebounds.

A Lenawee Christian School student council representative, Salenbien has volunteered locally with Share the Warmth, which benefits the homeless population, and she has donated her time as a kindergarten teacher's aide and as a youth basketball coach. "Bree is the definition of a basketball player in 2021," said Brandon Arnold, head coach of Onsted High. "She can play every position. She is positionless. She can bring the ball up and on the same possession, post up. She displays tremendous leadership and is a hard worker."

Salenbien has maintained a weighted 4.07 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Gonzaga University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Salenbien joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Players of the Year Gabrielle Elliot (2019-20, Detroit Edison Public Academy), Rickea Jackson (2018-19 & 2017-18, Detroit Edison Public School Academy), and Kierra Fletcher (2016-17, Cousino High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Salenbien has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Salenbien is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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