

**ST. RAPHAEL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Amaya Dowdy of St. Raphael Academy** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Dowdy is the third Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Raphael Academy.

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 Dowdy as Rhode Island'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, Dowdy 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 senior forward led the Saints to an 11-0 record and the Division I state championship this past season. Dowdy averaged 18.8 points, 11.5 rebounds, 3.5 blocks, 2.7 steals and 2.5 assists per game, and she netted 20 points to go with 17 rebounds and five steals in St. Ray's 43-38 overtime win over Barrington High in the state final. She was the game's MVP. Also the 2020 Providence Journal Player of the Year, Dowdy is a three-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep basketball career with 1,253 points and 783 rebounds.

Dowdy is a member of the St. Raphael Leadership Through Athletics Committee, and she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Amaya is an amazing player," said Stephen Lenz, head coach of Barrington High. "She possesses incredible athleticism at both ends of the floor. Her versatility on offense makes her a match-up nightmare for most teams."

Dowdy has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell 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.

Dowdy joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Players of the Year Megan Bodziony (2019-20, St. Andrew's School), Leiya Stuart (2018-19, St. George's School), and Oluchi Ezemma (2017-18 & 2016-17 Moses Brown School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Dowdy has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Dowdy 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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