

CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 8, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Joyce Edwards of Camden High School is the 2022-23 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Edwards is the second Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Camden High 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 court, distinguishes Edwards as South Carolina's best high school girls basketball player. Edwards joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Kiki Rice (2021-22, Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minn.), Nneka Ogumike (2007-08, CyFair High School, Texas), and Candace Parker (2003-04 & 2002-03, Naperville Central High School, Ill.).

The 6-foot-3 junior forward had led the Bulldogs to a 28-2 record and the AAA state championship game at the time of her selection. Edwards averaged 28.7 points, 13.7 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 3.6 steals and 2.6 blocks per game through 30 contests, earning AAA Player of the Year honors in the process. She recorded 3,016 points in her prep career, including 29 double-doubles this past season, and currently averages 22.2 points per game with her senior year still to come.

Edwards has volunteered locally at the Beyond the Court basketball camp as a coach and at the Jackson Teen Center, where she tutors students in math and science. She also has donated her time as a member of the National Beta Club, including such duties as operating the game clock for junior varsity basketball games. "Joyce does everything well," said Altro Staley, head coach at Lakewood High School. "Her size and skill make her dominant."

Edwards has maintained a 4.97 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Edwards joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ashlyn Watkins (2021-22, Cardinal Newman School), Talaysia Cooper (2020-21, East Clarendon High School), Loyal McQueen (2019-20, Wilson High School), and Danae McNeal (2018-19, Swansea High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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