

**BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA 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 Amelia 'Uhila of Bartlett High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the **Year**. 'Uhila is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bartlett 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 field, distinguishes 'Uhila as Alaska'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, 'Uhila joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogumike (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 5-foot-8 senior guard led the Bears to a 17-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. 'Uhila averaged 17.4 points, 7.1 steals, 5.9 rebounds and 5.6 assists per game. The Class 4A Player of the Year, she is also the Cook Inlet Conference MVP and a three-time First Team All-State honoree.

A devoted member of her church youth group, 'Uhila has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, a homeless shelter and youth basketball camps. "Amelia 'Uhila is a fantastic player," said Larry Wilson, head coach at South Anchorage High. "She plays harder than anyone in the state. She has the ability to score at will and make her teammates better with her court vision and passing. It's her defense, though, that makes her truly special."

'Uhila has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Portland State 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.

'Uhila joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Destiny Reimers (2019-20, Anchorage Christian Schools), and Alissa Pili (2018-19, 2017-18 & 2016-17, Dimond High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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