

**NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 Jersey Wolfenbarger of Northside High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Wolfenbarger is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Northside 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 Wolfenbarger as Arkansas'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, Wolfenbarger 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-6 senior guard led the Bears to a 26-2 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Wolfenbarger averaged 19.0 points, 8.8 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 1.7 blocks per game. A McDonald's All-American, she was the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Player of the Year and a finalist for the Naismith High School Girls Player of the Year trophy. Wolfenbarger was also selected to the WBCA High School Coaches' All-America team and is a finalist for the 2021 USA Women's U19 World Cup Team. She is the nation's No. 7 prospect in her class as rated by ESPN.

Wolfenbarger has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, the Salvation Army and youth basketball programs. "Jersey Wolfenbarger is a nightmare to play against," said Marlon Williams, head coach at Little Rock Central High. "She's got great size and a great skillset. She can play on the perimeter, she can play down low and it's just impossible to match up with her."

Wolfenbarger has maintained a 4.04 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Two-time winner Wolfenbarger joins Sasha Goforth (2018-19, Fayetteville High School), and Christyn Williams (2017-18 & 2016-17, Central Arkansas Christian Schools), among the state's list of former award winners.

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