

**GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Lauren Betts of Grandview High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Betts is the second Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grandview 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 Betts as Colorado'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, Betts 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 6-foot-7 junior post averaged 17.5 points and 11.0 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Wolves (17-1) to the Class 5A state semifinals. Betts connected on 80 percent of her shots from the field and also averaged 2.6 blocks and 1.9 assists. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2022 by HoopGurlz, Betts is a three-time First Team All-State selection. She concluded her junior year with career totals of 1,116 points, 719 rebounds and 253 blocks.

Betts has volunteered locally with Project C.U.R.E., which prepares medical supplies to be sent to developing countries around the world. She has also donated her time to the Ronald McDonald House-Denver and as a youth basketball coach. "Lauren is like no other player that I have ever been around," said Clint Evans, head coach of Cherry Creek High. "I have game-planned for kids in the past, but Lauren is different because you game plan your defense and your offense around her. Her size is obviously the thing that makes her stand out, but it's what she can do at that size that makes her the most difficult player to go against."

Betts has maintained a weighted 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2022.

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.

Betts joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jana Van Gytenbeek (2019-20, Cherry Creek High School), Francesca Belibi (2018-19, Regis Jesuit High School), Camilla Emsbo (2017-18, Lakewood High School), and Michaela Onyenwere (2016-17, Grandview High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Betts has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Betts 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

###