

**CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Jessica Carrothers of Crown Point High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Carrothers is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Crown Point 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 Carrothers as Indiana'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, Carrothers 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 5-foot-7 junior guard led the Bulldogs to a 25-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Carrothers averaged 23.3 points, 5.4 rebounds, 4.1 steals and 3.9 assists, and compiled 25 points, seven rebounds and five steals in the Bulldogs' 44-34 win over Brownsburg High in the state title game. Carrothers is a three-time Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Underclass Supreme 15 First Team All-State selection and a two-time NWI Times MVP. She concluded her junior year with 1,751 points in her prep basketball career.

Carrothers has volunteered locally with Crown Point's Best Buddies program and Key Club. She has also donated her time to the Lake County Animal Shelter and as a youth basketball coach. "Jessica Carrothers is a fantastic player," said Kristi Kaniewski-Ulrich, head coach of Penn High. "She is not flashy or super-quick, but she is highly skilled and works on her craft. Her mid-range game is off the charts. Hands down, she has the highest basketball IQ that I have ever coached against." Carrothers has maintained a weighted 3.74 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 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.

Carrothers joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Madison Layden (2019-20, Northwestern High School), Sydney Parrish (2018-19, Hamilton Southeastern High School), Amy Dilk (2017-18, Carmel High School), and Karissa McLaughlin (2016-17, Homestead High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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