

**WAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Katie Dinnebier of Waukee High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Dinnebier is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waukee 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 Dinnebier as Iowa'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, Dinnebier 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-9 senior guard led the Warriors to a 13-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Dinnebier averaged 19.1 points, 4.0 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 3.5 steals per game, converting 45.7 percent of her 3-point attempts. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, she was also named Miss Iowa Basketball.

Dinnebier has volunteered locally on behalf of Meals from the Heartland, a vacation Bible school and youth basketball programs. "Katie Dinnebier is as tough of a competitor as there is," said Kristin Meyer, head coach at Dowling Catholic High. "She's one of the best on-ball defenders I've ever coached against. Offensively, she's able to not only finish at the rim and shoot a high percentage from the 3-point line, but also, when you have a help defender step over to slow her down, she finds an open teammate with a great pass."

Dinnebier has maintained a 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Drake 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.

Dinnebier joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Players of the Year Caitlin Clark (2019-20 & 2018-19, Dowling Catholic High School), Ashley Joens (2017-18, Iowa City High School), and Elle Ruffridge (2016-17, Pocahontas Area High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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