

**LAGRANGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Jeriah Warren of LaGrange High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Warren is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from LaGrange 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 Warren as Louisiana'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, Warren 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 senior guard led the Gators to a 21-0 record and a second straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Warren averaged 19.0 points, 12.0 rebounds, 6.0 steals, 4.0 assists and 2.0 blocks per game, netting 19 points and pulling down 14 rebounds in the Gators' 49-42 win over Huntington High in the state title game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was the 2021 Louisiana Sports Writers Association's Class 4A State Player of the Year. She is ranked as the nation's No. 95 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Prospects Nation.

Warren has volunteered locally assisting with Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts and as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research. She has also donated her time as a youth camp counselor. "Jeriah Warren is a special player," said Casey Meador, head coach of North Vermilion High. "I have rarely seen a player that can have an impact on the game in all aspects. She is a very skilled guard for her size, and she's the leader of the Gators on offense at all five positions."

Warren has maintained a weighted 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Warren joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year JerKaila Jordan (2019-20, John Curtis Christian School), Tiara Young (2018-19, Walker High School), Kourtney Weber (2017-18, Ursuline Academy), and Cara Ursin (2016-17, Destrehan High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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