

**ELIZABETH SETON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Regina Walton of Elizabeth Seton High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Walton is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Elizabeth Seton 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 Walton as Maryland'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, Walton 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 5-foot-4 junior guard led the Roadrunners to an 8-4 record this past season. Walton averaged 15 points, 3.7 assists, 1.8 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game. A starter since she moved up to varsity in the middle of her freshman year, Walton was a First Team All-Tournament selection as she helped lead Elizabeth Seton to victory at the Nike Tournament of Champions last year.

Walton has volunteered locally with children in foster care, and she has donated her time to multiple community service activities through her church. "Regina is a quick little guard who creates a lot of opportunities for her teammates," said Scott Allen, head coach of Paul VI (Va.) High. "She is really good off the bounce, for sure."

Walton has maintained a 3.68 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.

Walton joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Players of the Year Mir McLean (2019-20, Roland Park Country School), Jakia Brown-Turner (2018-19, Bishop McNamara High School), and Nia Clouden (2017-18 & 2016-17, St. Frances Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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