

**PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Alexis Markowski of Pius X High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Markowski is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pius X 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 Markowski as Nebraska'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, Markowski 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-3 senior center led the Thunderbolts to a 25-0 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Markowski averaged 23.3 points, 13.0 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game, while converting 59.5 percent of her field goal attempts. Honorary captain of the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State Team, she was also co-captain of the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska team.

Markowski has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and assisting at youth sports camps. "Alexis Markowski was the most dominant player in the state of Nebraska," said Jeff Rump, head coach at Lincoln Southwest High. "She's highly skilled, very athletic and has an incredible will to win."

Markowski has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Markowski joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Morgan Maly (2019-20, Crete High School), Jayme Horan (2018-19, Millard South High School), Quinn Weidemann (2017-18, Westside High School), and Chloe Dworak (2016-17, Lincoln Christian School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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