

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Destiny Adams of Manchester Township High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Adams is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Manchester Township 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 Adams as New Jersey'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, Adams 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 forward led the Hawks to a 10-5 record this past season, averaging 30.1 points, 18.7 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.5 blocks per game. A McDonald's All-American, Adams converted 55 percent of her field goal attempts. An NJ.com First Team All-State selection, she is ranked as the nation's No. 20 prospect in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.

Adams has volunteered locally on behalf of Helping Hands for Hunger, a soup kitchen and Operation Christmas Child. "Destiny Adams is just a once-in-a-lifetime athlete," said Joe Montano, head coach at Red Bank Catholic High. "She handles the ball against the press, she can make threes, she jumps out of the gym. She's impossible to guard."

Adams has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Adams joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kylee Watson (2019-20, Mainland Regional High School), Diamond Miller (2018-19, Franklin High School), and Dara Mabrey (2017-18 & 2016-17, Manasquan High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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