

**THE URSULINE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Sonia Citron of The Ursuline School as its 2020-21 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Citron is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from The Ursuline 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 Citron as New York'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, Citron 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-2 senior guard and forward led the Koalas to a 14-0 record this past season, averaging 26.3 points, 11.2 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 3.0 steals per game. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Citron has been named to the 2021 USA Women's U19 World Cup Team. A McDonald's All-American, she was also selected to the WBCA High School Coaches' All-America team. Citron is ranked as the nation's No. 16 prospect in the Class of 2021 by ESPN. Citron has volunteered locally on behalf of Warm Hands, Warm Hearts, which provides meals for needy families. "Sonia Citron is the complete package," said Al Viani, head coach at Our Lady of Lourdes High. "She's 6-2, can handle like a guard and can score inside or from deep range. She's super athletic and a top-notch defender and rebounder as well. Her team likely would have won state championships last year and this year, if they'd been held." Citron has maintained a weighted 4.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Two-time winner Citron joins Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Celeste Taylor (2018-19, Long Island Lutheran High School), Emily Engstler (2017-18, St. Francis Preparatory School), and Andra Espinoza-Hunter (2016-17, Ossining High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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