

**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Hannah Stuelke** of **Washington High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Stuelke is the second Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington 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 court, distinguishes Stuelke as Iowa'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 March, Stuelke 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, CyFair 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/forward led the Warriors to a 16-7 record and the Class 5A regional championship game this past season. Stuelke led the state in scoring with 29.1 points per game while also averaging 10.3 rebounds, 3.4 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.2 blocks. An Elite All-State honoree, she is a three-time All-District, All-Metro and All-State selection.

Stuelke has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's youth ministry. "Hannah Stuelke's ability to take over a game on both ends of the floor makes her a matchup nightmare," said Jason Edwards, head coach at Jefferson High School. "She works hard to get her teammates involved too and she's a humble competitor."

Stuelke has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Stuelke joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Players of the Year Katie Dinnebier (2020-21, Waukee High School), Caitlin Clark (2019-20 & 2018-19, Dowling Catholic High School), and Ashley Joens (2017-18, Iowa City High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the court. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Stuelke has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Stuelke is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.