

**SKOWHEGAN AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 9, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jaycie Christopher** of **Skowhegan Area High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Christopher is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skowhegan Area 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 Christopher as Maine'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, Christopher 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, 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 senior guard had led the River Hawks to a 21-0 record and a berth in the Class A state championship game at the time of her selection. Christopher averaged 23.7 points, 10.5 rebounds, 6.7 assists and 3.5 steals per game, while committing just 23 turnovers all season. She concludes her career as Skowhegan's career scoring leader (boys and girls), having broken the school's previous mark of 1,433 on February 8.

The Skowhegan High School senior class president, Christopher has volunteered locally as a caddie for Special Olympics golf tournaments and as an assistant coach for a girls travel basketball team. She has also donated her time as a Thanksgiving Day server at her community center and as a Unified Basketball player assistant, supporting intellectually challenged players. "Jaycie has a tremendous skill set that allows her to get what she wants when she wants it," said Chris Horr, head coach of Brewer High School. "She gets her teammates involved, and when the time comes for her to take over, it's very comfortable for her. She can guard all positions, but not all positions can guard her, which creates matchup nightmares for coaches."

Christopher has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Boston University 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.

Christopher joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Players of the Year Emily Archibald (2020-21 & 2019-20, Kennebunk High School), Mackenzie Holmes (2018-19, Gorham High School), and Kolleen Bouchard (2017-18, Houlton 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, Christopher 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. Christopher 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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