

**DETROIT EDISON PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Ruby Whitehorn** of **Detroit Edison Public School Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Whitehorn is the third Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Detroit Edison Public School Academy.

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 Whitehorn as Michigan'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, Whitehorn 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 senior guard had led the Pioneers to a 13-3 record and a berth in the Division 2, District 56 tournament championship game at the time of her selection. Whitehorn averaged 24.1 points, 12.3 rebounds, 4.4 steals and 4.0 assists per game through 16 games. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, she is ranked as the nation's No. 15 recruit in the Class of 2022 by HoopGurlz.

Whitehorn was a featured speaker at a 2021 Michigan Recreation & Parks Association conference. She has volunteered locally at the Fall Fun Fest in Ferndale and as a youth basketball coach. "Ruby is very dangerous in open space because she's quick, fast and has great hops," said Gary Morris, head coach of Mercy High School. "She is a very good basketball player."

Whitehorn has maintained a 3.02 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Clemson 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.

Whitehorn joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Players of the Year Bree Salenbien (2020-21, Lenawee Christian School), Gabrielle Elliot (2019-20, Detroit Edison Public Academy), and Rickea Jackson (2018-19 & 2017-18, Detroit Edison Public School Academy), 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, Whitehorn 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. Whitehorn 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).