

**APEX FRIENDSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Indya Nivar** of **Apex Friendship High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Nivar is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Apex Friendship 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 Nivar as North Carolina’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, Nivar 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 5-foot-10 senior guard had led the Patriots to a 28-2 record and the Class 4A semifinals at the time of her selection. Nivar averaged 18.3 points, 8.5 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 3.5 steals through 30 games. A McDonald’s All-American, she was also a First Team All-State selection and the District Player of the Year. Nivar is ranked as the nation’s No. 20 prospect in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.

A peer tutor in her school, Nivar has served as vice president of the student council and has volunteered locally on behalf of Note in the Pocket, which provides clothing for homeless or disadvantaged children. “Indya Nivar is the best all-around player I’ve ever coached against,” said Danielle Sullivan, head coach at Panther Creek High School. “She can truly play all five positions and is a matchup nightmare all over the floor.”

Nivar has maintained a 4.29 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Nivar joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Volleyball Players of the Year Saniya Rivers (2020-21, 2019-20 & 2018-19, E.A. Laney High School), and Izabela Nicoletti (2017-18, Neuse Christian 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, Nivar 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. Nivar 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.