

**CLASSEN SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Darianna Littlepage-Buggs** of **Classen School of Advanced Studies** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Littlepage-Buggs is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Classen School of Advanced Studies.

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 Littlepage-Buggs as Oklahoma'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, Littlepage-Buggs 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-1 senior guard led the Comets to a 20-1 record and the All-City League Tournament championship this past season. Littlepage-Buggs averaged 15.5 points, 12.8 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 2.2 steals and 1.8 blocks per game, earning McDonald's All-American honors. She is ranked as the nation's No. 17 recruit in the Class of 2022 by HoopGurlz.

A member of her church choir, Littlepage-Buggs has volunteered locally at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oklahoma City and has also donated her time to Classen's Black Student Union. "Darianna is so versatile on the court. She brings a lot of fire and force for her teammates, and she is very hard to guard," said Latesha Woods, head coach of Harding Charter Prep. "She has a high motor and is able to stay on the court the entire game, rebounding on both ends of the court. She can also defend every position on the floor."

Littlepage-Buggs has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Baylor 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.

Littlepage-Buggs joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Players of the Year Aaliyah Moore (2020-21 & 2019-20, Moore High School), Gabby Gregory (2018-19, Holland Hall School), and Jessi Murcer (2017-18, Westmoore 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, Littlepage-Buggs 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. Littlepage-Buggs 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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