

**NORTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Jillian Rogers** of **North Kingstown High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Rogers is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Kingstown 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 Rogers as Rhode Island'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, Rogers 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-7 junior guard had led the Skippers to a 22-1 record and a berth in the Open State Tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Rogers averaged 19.0 points, 7.9 rebounds, 3.7 steals, 2.6 assists and 1.8 blocks per game through 23 games. As a sophomore, she was a Second Team All-State selection by both the Providence Journal and the Rhode Island Basketball Coaches Association.

Rogers has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach, and she has donated her time as a middle school tutor and babysitter. "Jillian simply makes the players around her better," said Tammy Drape, head coach of St. Raphael Academy. "She possesses unique skills as a basketball player."

Rogers has maintained a weighted 3.78 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Rogers joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Players of the Year Amaya Dowdy (2020-21, St. Raphael Academy), Megan Bodziony (2019-20, St. Andrew's School), Leiya Stuart (2018-19, St. George's School), and Oluchi Ezemma (2017-18, Moses Brown 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, Rogers 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. Rogers 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.

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