

**LORETTO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Karly Weathers** of **Loretto High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Weathers is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Loretto 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 Weathers as Tennessee'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, Weathers 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-11 senior guard had led the Mustangs to a 28-2 record and a berth in the Class 2A sectional final at the time of her selection. Weathers averaged 23.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists, 4.0 steals and 2.0 blocks per game through 30 games. The 2021 Class A Miss Basketball winner, Weathers is a 2022 Class 2A Miss Basketball finalist. The sister of Ryan Weathers, the 2017-18 Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, she entered the sectional final with 2,701 points in her prep basketball career.

The Loretto High Homecoming Queen, Weathers has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Karly is a phenomenal player who makes everyone around her better," said Brian Porter, head coach of Lawrence County High School. "She is an outstanding defender who can guard a point guard or a post player. She is a tremendous offensive player who can score at all three levels and is also an excellent passer."

Weathers has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Weathers joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Players of the Year Lashae Dwyer (2020-21, The Webb School), Madison Hayes (2019-20, East Hamilton High School), Jayla Hemingway (2018-19, Houston High School), and Rhyne Howard (2017-18, Bradley Central 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, Weathers 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. Weathers 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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