

**CEDAR PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Gisella Maul** of **Cedar Park High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Maul is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cedar Park 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 Maul as Texas'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, Maul 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 junior guard had led the Timberwolves to a 36-0 record, 61 straight wins and a berth in the Class 5A state championship game at the time of her selection. Maul averaged 25.6 points, 8.2 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.9 steals per game through 36 games. The MVP of the 2021 Class 5A state title game and a 2021 First Team All-State selection, she is ranked as the nation's No. 45 recruit in the Class of 2023 by HoopGurlz.

Maul has volunteered locally making baked goods and treats for first responders and medical facilities. She has also donated her time at a local nursing home. "Gisella Maul is the most unstoppable player we watched or played against," said John Berkman, head coach of Marble Falls High School. "She can create her own scoring opportunities, she can shoot it from outside anywhere she wants and finishes at the goal. She is a fantastic player."

Maul has maintained a weighted 4.33 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.

Maul joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Rori Harmon (2020-21, Cypress Creek High School), Deja Kelly (2019-20, Duncanville High School), Endyia Rogers (2018-19, Bishop Lynch High School), and Charli Collier (2017-18, Barbers Hill 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, Maul 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. Maul 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).