CONWAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 8, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Chloe Clardy** of **Conway High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Clardy is the second Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Conway 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 Clardy as Arkansas' best high school girls basketball player. Clardy joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Kiki Rice (2021-22, Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minn.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, CyFair High School, Texas), and Candace Parker (2003-04 & 2002-03, Naperville Central High School, III.).

The 5-foot-10 senior guard had led the Wampus Cats to a 25-5 record and a first-round bye in the 6A state tournament at the time of her selection. Clardy averaged 24.76 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.16 steals and 4 assists per game through 30 contests for Conway High School, which ranked 19th in the MaxPreps national team rankings at the end of February. Also the 2021-22 Gatorade Player of the Year, she eclipsed 2,500 career points this season.

Clardy has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a coach for several youth basketball camps. She has also donated her time to Mentors Empowered, a community mentoring group. "She makes her team and teammates better, which might be the biggest compliment I would give a player," said Daryl Fimple, head coach at North Little Rock High School. "Chloe does what her team needs to to win. If it's rebounding, defending, making the extra pass, she will do it."

Clardy has maintained a 3.96 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Two-time winner Clardy joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jersey Wolfenbarger (2020-21 & 2019-20, NortHigh Schoolide High School) and Sasha Goforth (2018-19, Fayetteville High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.