

**TATNALL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 8, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Emma Kirby** of **Tatnall School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Kirby is the first Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tatnall 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 Kirby as Delaware's best high school girls basketball player. Kirby 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, Ill.).

At the time of her selection, the 6-foot-2 senior forward had led the Hornets to a 16-3 record and a berth in the second round of the state tournament. Kirby averaged 16.3 points, 14.4 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 2.8 blocks and 2.1 steals per contest through 19 games. A 2022 Second Team All-State selection and a two-time All-Delaware Independent School Conference honoree, she entered the state tournament with 1,153 points in her prep basketball career.

Kirby has volunteered locally with the Greater Newark Boys & Girls Club and has donated her time to both the Police Athletic League and the Special Olympics. "Emma Kirby is without question the key to Tatnall's success," said Jason Honsel, assistant coach at St. Andrew's School. "She moves extremely well for a post player, she's a great passer who is unselfish with her teammates and she's a great finisher around the basket and as a 3-point shooter."

Kirby has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Millersville (Pa.) 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.

Kirby joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Players of the Year India Johnston (2021-22 & 2020-21, Caravel Academy), Allie Kubek (2019-20, Sanford School), and Julie Kulesza (2018-19, Conrad Schools of Science), 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 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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