

**BENET ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Lenee Beaumont** of **Benet Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Beaumont is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Benet Academy.

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 Beaumont as Illinois' best high school girls basketball player. Beaumont 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 Ogumike (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 senior guard had led the Redwings to a 24-7 record and a berth in the Class 4A state semifinals. Beaumont averaged 18.8 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.7 steals per game through 31 games. Ranked as the nation's No. 83 recruit in the Class of 2023 by ESPN.com, she entered the state semifinals with 1,246 points in her prep basketball career.

Beaumont has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and as a youth basketball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives on behalf of her church. "I was incredibly impressed with how great Beaumont was in every facet of the game," said Brandon Collings, head coach of York High School. "Her basketball IQ is off the charts and she makes everyone around her better."

Beaumont has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Indiana 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.

Beaumont joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Players of the Year Katy Eidle (2021-22, John Hersey High School), Greta Kampschroeder (2020-21, Naperville North High School), Angela Dugalic (2019-20, Maine West High School), and Brea Beal (2018-19, Rock Island 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 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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