

**CHEVERUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Maddie Fitzpatrick** of **Cheverus High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Fitzpatrick is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cheverus 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 Fitzpatrick as Maine's best high school girls basketball player. Fitzpatrick 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.).

The 5-foot-11 junior guard led the Stags (19-3) to Maine's Class AA state semifinals, scoring 28 points in a double-overtime loss to Oxford Hills. Fitzpatrick averaged 17.8 points, 10.2 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 2.4 steals per game. A 2021-22 First-Team All-State selection, she is rated the No. 13 prospect in New England's Class of 2024 by PrepGirlsHoops.com.

Fitzpatrick is a member of her school's Key Club, a student-led community service organization, and has donated her time to Best Buddies International by supporting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and serves on the Cheverus President's Advisory Club. "She's completely unselfish," said Deering High School head coach Mike Murphy. "Her numbers are staggering when it comes down to it. She looks to pass first and score later. If she really wanted to, she could score 30 points a game. She's six feet, handles like a point guard and can shoot. She controls the game."

Fitzpatrick has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She is verbally committed to continuing her basketball career at the University of Maine and will return to Cheverus for her senior season in the 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.

Fitzpatrick joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jaycie Christopher (2021-22, Skowhegan Area High School), Emily Archibald (2020-21 & 2019-20, Kennebunk High School), and Mackenzie Holmes (2018-19, Gorham 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.