NOBLE & GREENOUGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Grace Oliver** of **Noble & Greenough School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Oliver is the fourth Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Noble & Greenough 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 Oliver as Massachusetts's best high school girls basketball player. Oliver 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 junior guard/forward had led Nobles to a 27-3 record and a berth in the New England Preparatory Council Class AA semifinals. Oliver averaged a double-double through 30 games, recording 13 points, 11 rebounds and 4.1 blocks per game while shooting 58 percent from the field. ESPN ranks Oliver as the nation's No. 60 prospect in the Class of 2024.

Oliver volunteers locally with The Cotting School, a private, non-profit supporting students with intellectual and physical challenges, and on behalf of Shooting Touch basketball camps. "She's a matchup nightmare because of her size, handle and ability to shoot the ball," said St. Luke's head coach Matthew Ward. "She's incredible. Just a really tough player. The biggest thing is, she's smart enough to figure out the right matchups, and then beat you."

Oliver has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Oliver joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Players of the Year Taina Mair (2021-22, Brooks School), two-time winner Caroline Ducharme (2020-21 & 2019-20, Noble & Greenough School), and Aliyah Boston (2018-19, Worcester Academy), 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/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.