GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Madison Booker** of **Germantown High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Booker is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Germantown 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 Booker as Mississippi's best high school girls basketball player. Booker 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 state's 2020-21 Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1 senior guard/forward had led the Mavericks to a 28-2 record and the 6A state championship game at the time of her selection. Booker averaged 20 points, 8 rebounds, 2.8 assists, 2.6 steals and 1.1 blocks per game through 30 contests and was named Mississippi's 6A Ms. Basketball. She is a McDonald's High School All-American Game selection—the first girl from Mississippi to be selected since 2008—and she's a member of the Nike Hoop Summit Team USA squad.

Booker has volunteered locally providing meals to the homeless during the holidays, and she's an active member of her church's children's ministry. She also has donated her time helping coach her sister's recreational basketball team. "She possesses the ability to create her own shot and score at will from a variety of places," said Candace Foster, head coach at Brandon High School. "What makes her so dominant is her size and athleticism, combined with her skillset, at the guard position."

Booker has maintained a 3.32 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Texas 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 Booker joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Players of the Year Debreasha Powe (2021-22, Meridian High School), Jacorriah Bracey (2019-20, Thomas E. Edwards High School), and Endya Buford (2018-19, Olive Branch 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.