

**PAUL VI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Hannah Hidalgo** of **Paul VI High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Hidalgo is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Paul VI 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 Hidalgo as New Jersey's best high school girls basketball player. Now one of three finalists for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Hidalgo 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.).

The 5-foot-7 senior point guard averaged 28.8 points and 7.3 steals per game this past season, leading the Eagles (21-3) to the South Jersey Non-Public A Tournament championship game. Hidalgo also averaged 6.4 rebounds and 5.1 assists en route to recording eight double-doubles and one triple-double. Hidalgo is a McDonald's All-American Game selection and a member of the Nike Hoop Summit Team USA squad. Ranked as the nation's No. 4 recruit in the Class of 2023 by Blue Star Basketball, she concluded her prep basketball career with a school-record 2,135 points.

Hidalgo has volunteered in association with local churches to raise funds for the needy. She has also donated her time by helping to feed the homeless, and founded Operation Warm with a goal of donating up to 100 coats to underserved youth (@operationwarm_coatsforkids). "Hannah is a great all-around player," said Christina Raiti, head coach of Long Island Lutheran (N.Y.) High School. "She was very in control of her game. She guarded extremely well, was a pest on defense and altered all areas of the game. We didn't have an answer for her."

Hidalgo 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 Notre Dame 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.

Hidalgo joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Madison St. Rose (2021-22, St. John Vianney High School), Destiny Adams (2020-21, Manchester Township High School), Kylee Watson (2019-20, Mainland Regional High School), and Diamond Miller (2018-19, Franklin 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.