LANSDALE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Gabby Casey** of **Lansdale Catholic High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Casey is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lansdale Catholic 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 Casey as Pennsylvania's best high school girls basketball player. Casey 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 5-foot-9 senior guard had led the Crusaders to a 24-2 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament, scheduled for March 11. Casey averaged 21.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 5.5 steals, 3.8 assists and 1.3 blocks per game through 26 games. The Philadelphia Catholic League MVP, Casey led the Crusaders to their first-ever PCL tournament championship. She entered the state tournament with 1,611 points in her prep basketball career.

Casey has volunteered locally with Shooting Stars, a basketball team for young adults with special abilities. She has also donated her time on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach. "Gabby Casey has a high basketball IQ and plays 'within herself,'" said Renie Shields, head coach of Archbishop Carroll High School. "She makes her teammates better and steps up in big-time situations. She is the most complete player we have seen this season."

Casey has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at St. Joseph's University 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.

Casey joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kaylene Smikle (2021-22, Westtown School), Kaitlyn Orihel (2020-21, Archbishop Wood High School), and Diamond Johnson (2019-20 & 2018-19, Neumann-Goretti 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/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.