ENSWORTH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Jaloni Cambridge** of **Ensworth School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Cambridge is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ensworth 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 Cambridge as Tennessee's best high school girls basketball player. Cambridge 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-5 junior point guard had led the Tigers to a 27-3 record and a berth in the Division II-AA state semifinals. Cambridge averaged 26.9 points, 7.6 rebounds, 4.3 steals and 3.8 assists per game through 30 games. One of 10 semifinalists for the Naismith Girls Basketball National Player of the Year award, she is a two-time Division II-AA Miss Basketball winner and was the 2022 MaxPreps National Sophomore of the Year.

Cambridge has volunteered locally with Tearing Down the Walls, a conference on race and leadership. "Jaloni has elevated her game this year," said Amy Josephson, head coach of Harpeth Hall School. "The development of her mid-range game has made her pretty much unstoppable. In a sense, it's like, 'pick your poison.' She also hustles on the defensive end, so you have to game plan for that as well."

Cambridge has maintained a B 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.

Cambridge joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Players of the Year Karly Weathers (2021-22, Loretto High School), Lashae Dwyer (2020-21, The Webb School), Madison Hayes (2019-20, East Hamilton High School), and Jayla Hemingway (2018-19, Houston 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 studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.