

**ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 8, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jenna Villa** of **Arlington High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Villa is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Arlington 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 Villa as Washington's best high school girls basketball player. Villa 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 senior guard and forward had led the Eagles to a 22-2 record and the Class 3A state semifinals. Villa averaged 22.3 points, 8.1 rebounds, 2.9 steals and 2.2 assists through 24 games. A two-time Wesco 3A/2A Player of the Year, she is also a First Team All-State selection and led the Eagles to three consecutive district championships for the first time in school history.

Villa has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs, organizing a summer basketball camp for elementary and middle school athletes in the community. "Throughout her high school career, she has continued to develop into a leader and one of the top players in the state," said Trent Adams, retired head coach at Stanwood High School. "I have lost a lot of sleep over the years trying to figure out how to slow her down, and she has continued to not only dominate the rivalry, but has given our entire league fits."

Villa has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Washington State University 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.

Villa joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kyra Gardner (2021-22, Raymond High School), Julianna Walker (2020-21, Annie Wright Schools), and Hailey Van Lith (2019-20 & 2018-19, Cashmere 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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