

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Sophie Lentfer** of **Grace Christian School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Lentfer is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grace Christian School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Lentfer as Alaska’s best high school girls basketball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Candace Parker (2003-04, 2002-03 & 2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Paige Bueckers (2017-18, Hopkins High School, Minn.) and Juju Watkins (2022-23 & 2021-22, Sierra Canyon School, Calif.).

At the time of her selection, the 6-foot junior guard and forward had led the Grizzlies to a 21-3 regular-season record and a berth in the Peninsula Conference Tournament. Lentfer averaged 21.3 points, 9.3 rebounds, 3.0 steals, 2.3 assists and 1.2 blocks through 24 games and was named Tournament MVP in three separate in-season events. She was also the 2023 Class 3A Player of the Year and is a two-time All-State selection. Her father, Jeff, was the 1990-91 Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year at Service High School.

Lentfer has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth basketball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. “Sophie is much more than a one-position player,” said Pete Johnson, head coach of Grace Christian School. “She has the skill to play any position on the floor. She has played—with much success—from the point to the post, offensively and defensively, for the last three years.”

Lentfer has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Lentfer joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sayvia Sellers (2022-23 & 2021-22, Anchorage Christian School), Amelia 'Uhila (2020-21, Bartlett High School) and Destiny Reimers (2019-20, Anchorage Christian School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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.

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