

**URSULINE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 14, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jezelle 'GG' Banks** of **Ursuline Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Banks is the seventh Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ursuline Academy.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Banks as Delaware’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.).

The 5-foot-8 freshman guard led the Raiders to an 18-6 record and the state championship this past season. Banks averaged 22.2 points, 3.9 rebounds, 3.4 steals and 3.0 assists and hit the game-winning free throw with 1.9 seconds left to lift Ursuline over Caravel Academy, 49-48, in the state final, capping a game in which she scored 29 points. A 2023 First Team All-State selection, she holds 35 scholarship offers as a true freshman.

Banks has volunteered locally as the team manager of the Ursuline lacrosse team. She has also donated her time as a youth basketball coach and counselor. “GG Banks controls the whole game,” said Tye Taylor, head coach of St. Elizabeth High School. “Rebounding, assists, scoring, defense. She usually guards the opposing team’s best player regardless of position.”

Banks has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Banks joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Players of the Year Emma Kirby (2022-23, Tatnall School), India Johnston (2021-22 & 2020-21, Caravel Academy) and Allie Kubek (2019-20, Sanford 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](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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