

**BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Olivia Olson** of **Benilde-St. Margaret's** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Olson is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Benilde-St. Margaret's.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Olson as Minnesota'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-2 senior guard had led the Red Knights to a 23-5 record and a berth in the AAA Section 6 final. Olson averaged 24 points, 10 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 3.6 steals through 28 games and was selected to play in the McDonald's All-American Game. She's also been named to the Nike Hoop Summit Team USA squad.

Olson has volunteered locally by spearheading a shoe drive to collect new and gently used athletic shoes for area youth through Legacy Hoops Academy. She also has donated her time with Prism, a local nonprofit that provides social services to people in the northwest Twin Cities suburbs. "Olivia's length and athleticism, combined with her versatile skill set, is a matchup nightmare," said Blake Nichols, head coach at Andover High School. "She handles the ball, moves well off it and will take smaller players into the post. She can score from all three levels and is a terrific defender."

Olson has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Olson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Tessa Johnson (2022-23, St. Michael-Albertville High School), Maya Nnaji (2021-22, Hopkins High School), Gianna Kneepkens (2020-21, Marshall School) and Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High 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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