

**LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Jordan Speiser** of **Lutheran High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Speiser is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lutheran High 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 Speiser as Missouri’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-1 junior guard had led the Cougars to a 24-4 record and a berth in the Class 5 state quarterfinals. Speiser averaged 23.4 points, 9.7 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.8 steals through 28 games with Lutheran in pursuit of a second-straight state title. A Class 5 First Team All-State selection as a sophomore, Speiser is ranked as the nation’s No. 14 recruit in the Class of 2025 by Prospects Nation. She entered the state tournament with 1,672 points in her prep basketball career.

Speiser has volunteered locally as a math tutor and youth basketball trainer, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. “Jordan is a guard who can do it all,” said Justin Wilmes, head coach of St. Dominic High School. “She has range from anywhere on the court, is strong enough to [sit in the] post and be physical down low and makes passes that most girls can’t see or make.”

Speiser has maintained a 3.54 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.

Speiser joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Players of the Year Grace Slaughter (2022-23, Grain Valley High School), Bella Fontleroy (2021-22, Kickapoo High School), Natalie Potts (2020-21, Incarnate Word Academy) and Katie Scott (2019-20, Carl Junction 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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