

**MONTEREY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Aaliyah Chavez** of **Monterey High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Chavez is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Monterey 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 Chavez as Texas’ 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-10 junior point guard led the Plainsmen to a 31-6 record and the 5A regional quarterfinals this past season. A finalist for the Naismith Girls Basketball National Player of the Year Award, Chavez averaged 37.8 points, 10.1 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 3.5 steals per game. She is ranked as the nation’s No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2025 by espnW.

Chavez has volunteered locally with Monterey High School’s “Christmas Angel” program, which provides holiday gifts to less fortunate families. She has also donated her time to the Plainsmen Pal Program, which pairs Monterey basketball players with an elementary-age “Pal” to mentor and spend time with during the season. “I have been coaching 20 years now and have seen and coached against some pretty good guards — several who have had standout careers in the WNBA — and she is the best I have seen,” said Brenda Andress, Abilene High School head coach. “She is also a phenomenal passer, rebounder and defender. She can go right or left equally, she can shoot lights out from the 3-point line, she has a pull-up jumper. I studied her shot chart to try to find a weak spot and there wasn’t one.”

Chavez has maintained a 3.63 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.

Chavez joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jules LaMendola (2022-23, Coppell High School), Gisella Maul (2021-22, Cedar Park High School), Rori Harmon (2020-21, Cypress Creek High School) and Deja Kelly (2019-20, Duncanville 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](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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