

**RIDGELINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Emilee Skinner** of **Ridgeline High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Skinner is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ridgeline 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 Skinner as Utah’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-11 junior combo guard averaged 24.0 points, 7.7 rebounds, 4.3 assists, 3.5 and 1.7 blocks per game this past season, leading the Riverhawks (25-2) to the Class 4A state championship. Ranked as the nation’s No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2025 by ProspectsNation, Skinner shot 66 percent from inside the arc, 43 percent from 3-point range and 86 percent from the free throw line this winter. Now a two-time state champion, she is also a two-time First Team All-State selection and was the 2023 Deseret News Class 4A Player of the Year.

Skinner has volunteered locally on behalf of the Cache Valley Rotary Club, the Children’s Justice Center in Logan, the Special Olympics, Feed My Starving Children and Loaves and Fishes. She has also donated her time by visiting local retirement and nursing facilities to serve as a companion to residents. “Emilee Skinner is as good a player as I’ve seen in high school over the last 15 years,” said Shaylee Nielsen, head coach of Skyridge High School. “She’s a player you’re never going to shut down, just hope to slow down. She also elevates everyone around her. I believe she could score 30-plus a night, but she gets her teammates involved. She’s truly as good as everyone says she is.”

Skinner has maintained a 3.94 weighted 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.

Skinner joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kailey Woolston (2022-23, Lone Peak High School), Teya Sidberry (2021-22, Judge Memorial Catholic High School), Emma Calvert (2020-21, Fremont High School) and Kennady McQueen (2019-20, North Summit 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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