COLONY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 13, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Hallie Clark** of **Colony High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Clark is the second Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Colony High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Clark as Alaska's best high school girls basketball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Illinois), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minnesota) and Joyce Edwards (2023-24, Camden High School, South Carolina).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-7 senior guard had led the Knights (20-4) to a Northern Lights Conference championship and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament. Clark averaged 25.2 points, 4.6 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 2.8 steals through 22 games this season, shooting 40.3 percent from beyond the arc. The 2023-24 Class 4A Player of the Year, she is also a three-time First Team All-Tournament selection.

Clark has volunteered locally by leading Thanksgiving food drives. She has also donated her time by helping to organize a basketball camp that raised funds for youth basketball players in Uganda. "She's extremely difficult to guard," said Larry Wilson, head coach at Anchorage South High School. "She can score with or off the ball, and her defense is incredibly impressive."

Clark has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Colorado Mesa University this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sophie Lentfer (2023-24, Grace Christian School), Sayvia Sellers (2022-23 & 2021-22, Anchorage Christian School) and Amelia 'Uhila (2020-21, Bartlett 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.