

## **LITTLE ROCK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 13, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Whitley Rogers** of **Little Rock Christian Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Rogers is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Little Rock Christian Academy.

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 Rogers as Arkansas’ 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).

The 5-foot-11 junior guard led the Warriors to a 22-5 record and a berth in the Class 5A state tournament this past season. Rogers averaged 24.9 points, 6.9 reb pounds, 3.1 assists and 2.5 steals per game. She posted a pair of 37-point games and scored a season-high 41 a win over Greenbrier.

Rogers has volunteered locally at eldercare facilities and food banks. She has also donated her time to a local special needs school, where she has mentored students. “She has the ability to shoot a deep three, the pullup jump shot, or just beast her way to the rim,” said Shekinna Stricklen, head coach at Sylvan Hills High School. “She also crashes the boards hard and rebounds the ball. This part is all heart and effort, and her team feeds off it.”

Rogers has maintained a 3.93 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 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.

Rogers joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Anna Trusty (2023-24, Greenwood High School), Chloe Clardy (2022-23 & 2021-22, Conway High School) and Jersey Wolfenbarger (2020-21, Northside 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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