

URSULINE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Jezelle 'GG' Banks** of **Ursuline Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Banks is the seventh Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ursuline 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 Banks as Delaware'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-9 sophomore guard had led the Raiders to a 13-9 record and a berth in Delaware’s state semifinals. Banks averaged 21.7 points, 4.8 assists, 4.1 rebounds and 3.1 steals through 21 games this past season. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Banks also won the 2024 Delaware High School Coaches Association’s Player of the Year award. She is ranked as the nation’s No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2027 by Prospects Nation and No. 6 recruit by espnW.

Banks has volunteered locally as a youth basketball camp counselor. She has also served as manager for her school’s lacrosse team. “There isn’t anyone in Delaware that could come close to matching the talent of Jezelle Banks,” said Val Karch, head coach at Saint Mark’s. “She is definitely in her own stratosphere.”

Banks has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Two-time winner Banks joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Players of the Year Emma Kirby (2022-23, The Tatnall School) and India Johnston (2021-22 & 2020-21, Caravel Academy), 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 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.