WHEELING PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Alexis Bordas** of **Wheeling Park High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bordas is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wheeling Park 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 Bordas as West Virginia'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).

The 5-foot-8 senior guard averaged 33.1 points, six rebounds, four steals and two assists per game this past season, leading the Patriots (15-9) to the Region 1 AAAA final. Ranked as the state's No. 1 recruit in her class by PrepGirlsHoops, Bordas is now a three-time Gatorade West Virginia Player of the Year. Also a three-time First Team All-State selection—who has twice been named captain of that elite squad—she was MVP of the 2024 State Tournament when she led the program to its first state championship since 1999.

Bordas has volunteered locally on behalf of the Soup Kitchen of the Upper Ohio Valley and by collecting food as well as wrapping gifts for the less fortunate throughout the holiday season. A member of the Drug Free Club of America, she has also donated her time by hosting a free instructional clinic for youth players three years in a row. Bordas is a devoted parishioner of the St. Vincent Parish Church and has served as student council class representative, a freshman mentor and a Regional Environmental Action Program counselor at her school. "She's one of the toughest players in girls high school basketball in the state," said Pat Jones, head coach at Nitro High School. "She respects the game and gives you 110 percent every time, plus she handles pressure and double- and triple-teams night in and night out. She's a team player and humble athlete with amazing talent."

Bordas has maintained a 4.68 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Duquesne 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.

Three-time winner Bordas joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Dionna Gray (2021-22, Huntington High School) and Marley Washenitz (2020-21, Fairmont Senior 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>.

###