

**XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Libby Fandel** of **Xavier High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Fandel is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Xavier 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 Fandel as Iowa'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 6-0 senior guard averaged 26.3 points, 10.6 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game this past season, leading the Saints (28-4) to the Class 4A state title. The captain of this year’s All-Tournament team, Fandel set 4A postseason records with 94 points, averaging 31.3 per game, as well as for single-game rebounding (25). Ranked as the nation’s No. 45 recruit in her class by 247 Sports, she was also named the all-class Miss Iowa Basketball. She shot a remarkable 39.4 percent on 194 3-point attempts.

Fandel has volunteered locally on behalf of her church community. She has also donated her time to the Young Parents Network (YPN), the Just Like Caitlin book initiative and Green Square Meals. In addition, she has coached at youth basketball camps. “Libby is an excellent offensive player as one of the top scorers in the state and moves very well without the ball,” said Anthony Pappas, head coach at Waterloo West High School. “In addition, she usually guards the other team’s best offensive player—be that a post or a perimeter player. Her hard work and unselfish play were instrumental in leading her team to the 4A State Championship. She is also a wonderful role model as well.”

Fandel has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Kansas 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.

Fandel joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Players of the Year Divine Bourrage (2023-24, North High School), Kelsey Joens (2022-23, West Liberty High School), Hannah Stuelke (2021-22, Washington High School) and Katie Dinnebier (2020-21, Waukeg 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 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.