OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Caroline Bradley** of **Oak Grove High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bradley is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Grove 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 Bradley as Louisiana'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-foot-5 sophomore center averaged 21.8 points and 15.1 rebounds this past season, leading the Tigers (21-5) to the Non-Select Division III state championship game. Bradley also averaged 2.5 blocks and 2.3 assists, and she saved one of her best for last, earning game MVP honors as she tallied 38 points, 22 rebounds and six blocks in a 48-43 loss to Oakdale in the state final. A Class 2A First Team All-State selection as a freshman, Bradley is ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2027 by ESPN. She concluded her sophomore year with 1,595 points and 1,146 rebounds in her prep basketball career.

A member of her school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Bradley has volunteered locally at a food distribution center and as a youth softball umpire. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Caroline is a great player at her size," said Stan Humphries, former NFL quarterback and head coach of Ouachita Christian High School. "She has an all-around game as far as post work and moves, but she can also shoot it from distance. She has a great impact on the game because of her size and agility."

Bradley has maintained a 4.0 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.

Bradley joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jada Richard (2023-24, Lafayette Christian Academy), Mikaylah Williams (2022-23 & 2021-22, Parkway High School) and Jeriah Warren (2020-21, LaGrange 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 facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.