

**PARK HILL SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Addison Bjorn** of **Park Hill South High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bjorn is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Park Hill South 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 Bjorn as Missouri’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 6-foot-2 junior guard and forward had led the Panthers to a 28-0 record and a berth in the Class 6, District 8 tournament championship game. Bjorn averaged 22.0 points, 11.5 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 3.3 steals through 28 games as Park Hill South pursued a perfect season. A member of the USA Basketball Under-17 Women’s National Team that won the gold medal at the FIBA World Cup last summer, Bjorn is a 2025 Naismith Award Honorable Mention All-American selection. She is ranked as the nation’s No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2026 by espnW and 247Sports and entered the district final with 1,617 points in her prep basketball career.

A member of the Park Hill South High School student council, Bjorn has volunteered locally with People of All Colors Succeed, a non-profit that focuses on self-empowerment in students. “Addison is special,” said Aaron Neeser, head coach of Liberty High School. “I have been doing this for 25 years and she is the single-best player I have coached against. She is incredible. Her ability to guard 1-5 and score against any type of player and defense is the best I have seen.”

Bjorn has maintained a weighted 3.85 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.

Bjorn joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Speiser (2023-24, Lutheran High School), Grace Slaughter (2022-23, Grain Valley High School), Bella Fontleroy (2021-22, Kickapoo High School) and Natalie Potts (2020-21, Incarnate Word 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.