

**MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Mia Pauldo** of **Morris Catholic High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Pauldo is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Morris Catholic 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 Pauldo as New Jersey’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-7 senior guard had led the Crusaders to a 26-0 record and a berth in the North Jersey Non-Public A Tournament championship game. Pauldo averaged 19.5 points, 5.2 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 3.0 steals through 26 games as Morris Catholic aimed for its third straight state title. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection and a Naismith Award Second Team All-American, Pauldo is ranked as the nation’s No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2025 by espnW. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she entered the North Jersey title game with 2,130 points in her prep basketball career.

Pauldo has volunteered locally serving food to the unhoused community, and she has donated her time as a youth mentor and basketball coach. “Mia is a terrific player,” said Mary Klinger, head coach of Rutgers Preparatory School. “I love her energy and enthusiasm for the game. She gets everyone involved and has a terrific feel for the game.”

Pauldo has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Tennessee 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.

Pauldo joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Mikayla Blakes (2023-24, Rutgers Preparatory School), Hannah Hidalgo (2022-23, Paul VI High School), Madison St. Rose (2021-22, St. John Vianney High School) and Destiny Adams (2020-21, Manchester Township 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.