

**CHRIST THE KING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 13, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Olivia Vukosa** of **Christ the King High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Vukosa is the ninth Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christ the King 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 Vukosa as New York’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 junior post player led the Royals to a 24-6 record and the Catholic High School Athletic Association Tier 1 New York City Tournament title. Vukosa averaged 19.2 points, 17.9 rebounds, 5.5 blocks and 3.8 assists per game, including 15 points and 23 rebounds in a 62-53 win over Monsignor Scanlan to clinch the City Intersectional title. A member of the Naismith Award Midseason Team, Vukosa is also part of the Croatian Women’s National Team. She is ranked as the nation’s No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN.

Vukosa has volunteered locally as a peer tutor in math and science, and she has supervised campus tours for prospective students and their families. She has also donated her time as a youth basketball coach. “Olivia has showcased her full arsenal this season,” said Anthony Rizzo, head coach of St. Francis Preparatory School. “She is shooting behind the 3-point line as well as getting to her spots and finishing around the rim. She also has been a major playmaker this season.”

Vukosa has maintained an A average 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.

Vukosa joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Syla Swords (2023-24, Long Island Lutheran High School), Kate Koval (2022-23, Long Island Lutheran High School), Paris Clark (2021-22, Long Island Lutheran High School) and Sonia Citron (2020-21, The Ursuline 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).