

**MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **LeeLee Bell** of **Minot High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bell is the third Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Minot 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 Bell as North Dakota’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-3 junior forward had led the Magicians to a 21-1 record and a berth in the Class AA Western Dakota Association regional quarterfinals. Bell averaged 27.4 points, 11.2 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.9 steals on 50.6 percent shooting through 20 games and also surpassed 2,000 career points in late January. The returning North Dakota Gatorade Player of the Year, she ranks as the state’s No. 1 recruit in the class of 2026 by Prep Girls Hoops.

Bell has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and on behalf of the Special Olympics. “LeeLee is one of the most unbelievable players I’ve ever seen in North Dakota,” said Trevor Olson, head coach at Fargo South High. “Her size and skill make her a matchup nightmare, whether she plays ‘bully ball’ against a smaller defender, or takes the bigger defenders outside and attacks downhill. She has been doing this since she burst onto the scene (in eighth grade) and each year, she’s added something else to her game.”

Bell has maintained a B 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.

Two-time winner Bell joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Logan Nissley (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Bismarck Century 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.