PURCELL MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 **Dee Alexander** of **Purcell Marian High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Alexander is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Purcell Marian 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 Alexander as Ohio'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-1 senior wing had led the Cavaliers to a 22-6 record and a berth in the Division III state championship game. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Alexander averaged 20.5 points, 8.1 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 2.3 steals through 28 games as Purcell pursued a fourth straight state title. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Alexander is a two-time Ms. Basketball winner. A Naismith Award Honorable Mention All-American honoree, she is ranked as the nation's No. 8 recruit in the Class of 2025 by espnW and entered the state final with 2,367 points in her prep basketball career.

Alexander is the founder and organizer of CAMPDEE, a free basketball clinic for girls in the greater Cincinnati area that started in 2022. "Dee is a dynamic player," said Mike Moyers, head coach of Norwood High School. "She is by far the best player I have ever coached against. She does a lot of everything for her team. She does everything very well offensively and defensively."

Alexander has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Cincinnati this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 Alexander joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sole' Williams (2022-23, Princeton High School), Chance Gray (2021-22, Winton Woods High School) and KK Bransford (2020-21, Mount Notre Dame 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.