NORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Keeley Parks** of **Norman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Parks is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norman 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 Parks as Oklahoma'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-11 senior guard had led the Tigers (24-2) to a berth in the Class 6A state tournament. Parks, the state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, averaged 25.2 points, 8.7 rebounds, 5.2 steals and 3.8 assists through 26 games, shooting 53.1 percent from the floor. She broke Norman's career scoring record for boys and girls and entered the state tournament with 1,838 points.

Parks has volunteered locally with Norman High School's Tigerpalooza organization, which recently raised funds for Not Your Average Joe, a local coffee shop that offers employment opportunities to students and adults with special needs. She has also donated her time by helping to collect and deliver gifts for the elderly at the Noble Health Care Center. "Keeley Parks is one of the best players I've watched in a long time," said Rashelle Crowley, head coach at Eisenhower High School. "She has great hustle and just makes the game look so easy. She works hard and, from what I have seen, is an all-around team player."

Parks has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Kansas 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 Parks joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Players of the Year Laci Steele (2022-23, Edmond North High School), Darianna Littlepage-Buggs (2021-22, Classen School of Advanced Studies) and Aaliyah Moore (2020-21, Moore 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.