

**HEATHWOOD HALL EPISCOPAL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Lauren Jacobs** of **Heathwood Hall Episcopal School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Jacobs is the third Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Heathwood Hall Episcopal 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 Jacobs as South Carolina'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 5-foot-9 senior point guard averaged 25.7 points, 6.1 rebounds, 3.7 steals and 2.4 assists this past season, leading the Highlanders (17-4) to the SCISA Class 4A state semifinals. Jacobs is ranked as the nation’s No. 83 recruit in her class by espnW. A four-time state champion, she is also a two-time SCISA Player of the Year in her classification.

Jacobs has volunteered locally on behalf of Families Helping Families, the Kim’s Kids Foundation and the Salvation Army. “Lauren is a fantastic athlete and an even better person,” said Heathwood Hall Episcopal School head coach Brionna Zimmerman. “She is a strong student and has been accepted into the National Honor Society. She’s also led our team by example, both on and off the court.”

Jacobs has maintained a weighted 91.9 average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Mississippi 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.

Jacobs joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Players of the Year Joyce Edwards (2023-24 & 2022-23, Camden High School), Ashlyn Watkins (2021-22, Cardinal Newman School) and Talaysia Cooper (2020-21, East Clarendon 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.