CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Brynn McGaughy** of **Central Valley High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. McGaughy is the second Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Valley 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 McGaughy as Washington'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-3 senior small forward averaged a double-double in the semifinals and title game this past season, leading the Bears (27-0) to the Class 3A state championship. McGaughy averaged 17.1 points, 9.1 rebounds, 1.5 assists and 1.3 blocks through the first 25 games this winter. She's ranked as the nation's No. 17 recruit in her class by Prep Nation and has been named a McDonald's All-American.

McGaughy has donated her time by instructing elementary and junior high girls basketball players. She has also volunteered helping adults with disabilities live a fuller life. "Brynn is unique in that she has extreme confidence in her abilities on the floor, but is also very humble," said Central Valley High School head coach Jason Wilson. "She's been a team player through and through, doing anything my staff and I ask her to do on and off the floor."

McGaughy has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Washington 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.

McGaughy joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Katie Fiso (2023-24, Garfield High School), Jenna Villa (2022-23, Arlington High School), Kyra Gardner (2021-22, Raymond High School) and Julianna Walker (2020-21, Annie Wright Schools), 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 <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.