

CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Joyce Edwards of Camden High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Edwards is the second Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Camden High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Edwards as South Carolina's best high school girls basketball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Edwards joins an all-star group of alumni that includes Candace Parker (2003-04, 2002-03 & 2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Paige Bueckers (2017-18, Hopkins High School, Minn.) and Juju Watkins (2022-23 & 2021-22, Sierra Canyon School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-2 senior forward averaged 31.3 points, 13.3 rebounds, 4.5 steals, 4.0 assists and 3.3 blocks per game this past season, leading the Bulldogs (28-2) to the Class AAA state championship. Ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2024 by both espnW and Prospects Nation, Edwards is also a 2024 McDonald's All-American and Naismith First Team All American. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she helped 2023 USA Women's U19 National Team win gold at the 2023 FIBA U19 Women's World Cup in Madrid last summer, averaging 12.6 points, 6.1 rebounds and 1.1 blocks in 18.5 minutes over seven games to earn All-Star Five honors. She compiled a 74.0 percent true shooting percentage as a senior.

Also an All-State soccer player, Edwards is a member of the National Beta Club and National Honor Society. She has volunteered on behalf of the Beyond the Court basketball camps in addition to tutoring middle school students at the Jackson Teen Center, an after-school education and sports program for at-risk youth. A finalist for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America National Youth of the Year award, Edwards has also donated her time running the clock and keeping the scorebook at junior varsity basketball games. "Joyce Edwards is a phenomenal basketball player whose skills speak to her versatility on the court," said Stephanie Butler-Graham, head coach of South Pointe High. "She's a dominant force at both ends of the court. Though she is capable of scoring at all levels, she also creates and shares the ball with her teammates, providing opportunities for them to score. She's a menace on the defensive end with the ability to guard at the rim and in the paint, but she's also athletic enough to guard all positions. Joyce is in a class of her own, which makes her the only player from South Carolina that embodies the qualities of this prestigious award."

Edwards has maintained a 5.08 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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 Edwards joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ashlyn Watkins (2021-22, Cardinal Newman School), Talaysia Cooper (2020-21, East Clarendon High School) and Loyal McQueen (2019-20, Wilson 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, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

###