

**WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 30, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Aaronette Vonleh of West Linn High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Vonleh is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Vonleh as Oregon’s best high school girls basketball player. Vonleh joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-4 senior center led the Lions to a 12-4 record this past season. Vonleh averaged 28.6 points, 10.0 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game while shooting 71.1 percent from the floor. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was the 2020 Three Rivers League Player of the Year. She is ranked as the nation’s No. 99 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Prospect Nation.

Vonleh has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank, and she has donated her time as a youth basketball coach. “Aaronette is dominant inside but also is very smart about when to shoot versus when to pass,” said Tiffani Traver, head coach of Oregon City High. “She can attack the basket from the perimeter and really has pushed herself defensively to now be able to defend outside the key as well.”

Vonleh has maintained a weighted 3.35 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Vonleh joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Players of the Year McKelle Meek (2019-20, Southridge High School), Cameron Brink (2018-19 & 2017-18, Southridge High School), and Evina Westbrook (2016-17, South Salem High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Vonleh has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Vonleh is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program’s inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.