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**BUCKHANNON-UPSHUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Hanna McClung of Buckhannon-Upshur High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. McClung is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Buckhannon-Upshur 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 McClung as West Virginia's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, McClung joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 senior point guard led the Buccaneers to a 26-2 record and the Class AAA state final this past season. McClung averaged 20 points, 4.1 assists, 4.8 steals and 3.5 rebounds per game. A two-time First-Team All-State honoree, McClung is the 2017-18 Big Ten Conference Player of the Year. She concluded her prep career as the school's career scoring leader, boy or girl, with 1,691 points.

The student body treasurer, McClung has volunteered locally with Energy Express, a summer reading and writing program for children. She has also donated her time as a referee and on behalf of nursing homes. "Hanna is a phenomenal player," said Jason White, head coach at Morgantown High. "She plays with such confidence. They've got a nice team, but as an opposing coach, I admire most her ability to lead them and to put the team on her back when they need her. She has a confidence and calmness about her. She's the whole package of what you're looking for in an athlete."

McClung has maintained a weighted 4.08 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina beginning 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

McClung joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jordyn Dawson (2016-17 & 2015-16, Huntington High School), Shayna Gore (2014-15, Logan High School), Mychal Johnson (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph Central Catholic High School), Makenzie White (2011-12, Scott High School), Mariah Byard (2010-11 & 2009-10, North Marion High School), Whitney Bays (2008-09 & 2007-08, Huntington High School), and Mackenzie Maier (2006-07, Charleston Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Hanna will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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