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## **SMOKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® COLORADO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Kenny Foster of Smoky Hill High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Foster is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Smoky Hill 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 Foster as Colorado's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Foster joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-5, 195-pound senior guard averaged 27.1 points, 10.8 rebounds, 4.8 assists, 1.8 blocks and 1.4 steals per game this past season, leading the Buffaloes (20-6) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals. A four-time member of the All-Centennial League First Team, Foster was a Second Team All-State selection as a junior. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,784 points.

Foster has volunteered locally at a shelter for abused women and as a peer math tutor. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach. "Kenny is the best scorer I've coached against in this state," said Jarris Krapcha, head coach of Eaglecrest High. "Kenny is a skilled, strong and very athletic guard that dominated 5A basketball this year. He did it attacking the rim and with outstanding shooting from 3."

Foster has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Wyoming 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.

Foster joins Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Players of the Year Sam Masten (2017-18, Rock Canyon High School), Colbey Ross (2016-17 & 2015-16, Eaglecrest High School) and Brian Carey (2014-15, Denver East High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Foster also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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 [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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