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## **HELLGATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® MONTANA 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 **Rollie Worster of Hellgate High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Worster is the fifth Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hellgate 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 Worster as Montana'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, Worster 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-3, 200-pound junior guard led the Knights to a 21-2 record and the Class AA state final this past season. Worster averaged 22.2 points, 5.9 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.3 steals per game. A two-time All-State and All-Conference selection, he was named MVP of the Class AA state tournament, despite an overtime loss in the title game.

Also a football standout, Worster has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Rollie Worster is by far the most skilled and athletic player I've seen across the state," said Jay Jagelski, head coach at Missoula Sentinel High. "He's constantly able to produce 20-plus point games while being keyed on by every opponent, and he makes his teammates better with his unselfish play."

Worster has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Worster joins Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Sam Beighle (2017-18, Sentinel High School), Brendan Howard (2016-17 & 2015-16, Great Falls High School), and Tres Tinkle (2014-15, Hellgate High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Worster 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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