

SAHUARO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Alyssa Brown of Sahuaro High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Brown is the second Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sahuaro 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 Brown as Arizona’s best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Brown joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1 junior forward led the Cougars to a 28-2 record and the Class 4A state final this past season. Brown averaged 31.4 points, 9.7 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 1.3 blocks per game. A First Team All-Arizona selection, she was the Arizona Republic Player of the Year as a sophomore and is a three-time Region Player of the Year.

Brown has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal rescue center and youth basketball programs. “Alyssa Brown was by far the most dominant player we saw all year,” said Sue Darling, head coach at Catalina Foothills High. “She can shoot, pass, dribble, rebound and play defense, and she never takes a play off.”

Brown has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Brown joins Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Players of the Year Dominique Phillips (2018-19, Millennium High School), Taylor Chavez (2017-18, Valley Vista High School), Shaylee Gonzales (2016-17, Mesquite High School), Najiyah Pack (2015-16, South Mountain High School), Kristine Anigwe (2014-15, Desert Vista High School), and Julia Barcello (2013-14, Seton Catholic Preparatory High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Brown also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

###