

NORTHHIGH SCHOOLIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 **Jersey Wolfenbarger of NorthHigh Schoolide High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Wolfenbarger is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from NorthHigh Schoolide 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 Wolfenbarger as Arkansas’ 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, Wolfenbarger 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-4 junior guard had led the Bears to a 25-3 record and the Class 6A quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Wolfenbarger averaged 18.7 points, 6.0 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.5 steals in the regular season. She was the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Player of the Year and the Class 6A State Tournament MVP as a sophomore, and is ranked as the nation’s No. 19 recruit in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.

Wolfenbarger has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, the Salvation Army and youth basketball programs. “Jersey Wolfenbarger is a special player,” said Brad Matthews, head coach at Bryant High. “She has all the skills of a guard, with the height of a dominating post player. She can score on you at all three levels and she’s an impossible match-up for almost any high school team.”

Wolfenbarger has maintained a 4.08 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.

Wolfenbarger joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sasha Goforth (2018-19, Fayetteville High School), Christyn Williams (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, Central Arkansas Christian School), and Jordan Danberry (2014-15 & 2013-14, Conway 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,” Wolfenbarger 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.

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