

## BOISE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 6, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Peyton McFarland of Boise High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. McFarland is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Boise 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 McFarland as Idaho'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, McFarland 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 senior post player led the Braves to a 17-9 record and the Class 5A consolation title this past season. McFarland averaged 16.2 points, 9.1 rebounds, 1.4 blocks, 1.3 steals, and posted a .600 field goal percentage (121-for-201). A four-time All-Southern Idaho Conference selection, McFarland is ranked as the nation's No. 10 post player in the Class of 2020 by ESPN.com.

McFarland has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and with Wassmuth Center for Human Rights. She has also donated her time on behalf of the Idaho Food Bank and the Idaho Humane Society. "Peyton is a player that even if you game-plan for her, it's impossible to hold her down," said Stu Sells, head coach at Meridian High. "The reality is: she is a real, legitimate Pac-12 player, and those kids don't come around that often from this area."

McFarland has maintained a weighted 3.22 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Utah 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.

McFarland joins Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Players of the Year Darian White (2018-19, Mountain View High School), Melody Kempton (2017-18, Post Falls High School), Tori Williams (2016-17, Centennial High School), Destiny Slocum (2015-16 & 2014-15, Mountain View High School), and Leah Bonner (2013-14, Skyview 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," McFarland 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](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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