

DOWLING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 **Caitlin Clark of Dowling Catholic High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Clark is the second Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dowling Catholic 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 Clark as Iowa’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, Clark 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 5-foot-11 senior guard led the Maroons to a 19-4 record and the Class 5A regional final this past season. The state’s returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Clark averaged 33.4 points, 8.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 2.7 steals per game. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, she was a member of the gold medal-winning USA Basketball U19 Women’s World Cup Team and was a semifinalist for the Naismith High School Girls Player of the Year trophy. Clark has been chosen to play in both the McDonald’s All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic.

Clark has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, an animal shelter, the Special Olympics and a children’s hospital. “Caitlin Clark is truly one of the best players to have ever come out of Iowa,” said Scott DeJong, head coach at Ankeny Centennial High. “She can do everything on the court. I’ve seen many great players over my 35-year career, but she affects winning more than anyone I’ve seen.”

Clark has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Two-time winner Clark joins Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ashley Joens (2017-18, Iowa City High School), Elle Ruffridge (2016-17 & 2015-16, Pocahontas Area High School), Audrey Faber (2014-15, Dowling Catholic High School), and Haley Lorenzen (2013-14, City 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,” Clark 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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