

LARRY A. RYLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Maddie Scherr of Larry A. Ryle High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Scherr is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Larry A. Ryle 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 Scherr as Kentucky’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, Scherr 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 state’s returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior guard and forward had led the Raiders to a 19-11 record and a berth in the Region 9 Tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Scherr averaged 15.8 points, 7.6 rebounds, 5.8 assists, 3.1 steals and 1.8 blocks through 30 games. Ranked as the nation’s No. 17 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Prospects Nation, Scherr is a two-time First Team All-State honoree and was the MVP of the 2019 state tournament. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection, she entered the regional quarterfinals with 2,276 points, 1,083 rebounds, 664 assists and 532 steals in her prep basketball career.

A self-taught guitarist, Scherr has volunteered locally with Master Provisions, which provides clothes and food to needy countries, and she has donated her time on behalf of Young Life. “Maddie can score just about anywhere on the court,” said Nicole Levandusky, head coach of Cooper High. “If you pressure her, she will drive by you. If you sag and try to stop the drive she will hit a jumper. She is also a team player on top of all her personal skills that she brings to the court.”

Scherr has maintained a weighted 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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 Scherr joins Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Players of the Year Seygan Robins (2017-18, Mercer County Senior High School), Jaelynn Penn (2016-17, Butler Traditional High School), and Erin Boley (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Elizabethtown 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,” Scherr 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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