

KENNEBUNK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE 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 **Emily Archibald of Kennebunk High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Archibald is the third Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kennebunk 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 Archibald as Maine'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, Archibald 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-2 junior wing led the Rams to a 15-4 record and the Class A state tournament this past season. Archibald averaged 20 points, 13.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists, 3.6 steals, 3.4 blocks and posted a .550 field goal percentage. The Southwestern Maine Activities Association Player of the Year in 2020 after being Co-Player of the Year in 2019, Archibald has been a team captain since her freshman year.

A three-year varsity starter and 2019 SMAA All-Conference selection in soccer, Archibald has donated her time on behalf of Kennebunk High School Girl Talk, a club for mentoring younger female students. She has also volunteered locally as a youth basketball and soccer coach. "I think there are two things that set Emily apart from other players in the state," said Katie Herbine, head coach at Biddeford High. "First is her versatility. She can play any position on the floor, bringing a different skill set to each position, and she is an incredible defender. Secondly, it's her leadership ability. She has a commanding presence, doesn't fold under pressure and does whatever her coaches ask of her. She is the best all-around player we faced this year."

Archibald has maintained an A average 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.

Archibald joins Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Players of the Year Mackenzie Holmes (2018-19, Gorham High School), Kolleen Bouchard (2017-18, Houlton High School), Emily Esposito (2016-17, Gorham High School), Nia Irving (2015-16 & 2014-15, Lawrence High School), and Allie Clement (2013-14, Catherine McAuley 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," Archibald 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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