

ROLAND PARK COUNTRY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Mir McLean of Roland Park Country School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. McLean is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roland Park Country 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 McLean as Maryland’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, McLean 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 and forward averaged 21.3 points, 12.2 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 2.1 steals assists per game this past season, leading the Reds (15-11) to the Independent Athletic Association of Maryland state tournament semifinals. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection, McLean is ranked as the nation’s No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Prospects Nation. She is a three-time Baltimore Sun All-Metro First Team honoree and concluded her prep basketball career with 1,849 points.

A member of the Black Student Union at Roland Park, McLean has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and as a youth basketball coach. “Mir is an incredibly talented athlete—she can jump out of the gym,” said Maddie McConnell, head coach of St. John’s Catholic Preparatory School. “She is also a tremendous competitor. On top of it all, she truly carried the team on her shoulders. She pushes her teammates to be better and does it all with a smile.”

McLean has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom and represents one of the state’s top candidates in meeting the Gatorade award’s broad criteria. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

McLean joins Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jakia Brown-Turner (2018-19, Bishop McNamara High School), Nia Clouden (2017-18 & 2016-17, St. Frances Academy), Mykea Gray (2015-16, National Christian Academy), Taylor Murray (2014-15, Annapolis Area Christian School), and De’Janae Boykin (2013-14, C.H. Flowers 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,” McLean 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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