

NOBLE & GREENOUGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Caroline Ducharme of Noble & Greenough School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Ducharme is the fourth Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Noble & Greenough 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 Ducharme as Massachusetts' 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, Ducharme 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 guard and forward led the Bulldogs to a 24-3 record and a berth in the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class AA tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Ducharme averaged 24.8 points, 14.0 rebounds, 5.2 assists and 3.0 blocks through 27 games. An All-New England selection as a freshman, Ducharme missed her entire sophomore year due to an injury. She entered the postseason with 1,652 points in her prep basketball career.

Ducharme has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit the American Cancer Society, and she has donated her time as a youth basketball coach. "Caroline impacts the game more than any player I have seen in my 12 years of coaching," said Billy O'Dwyer, head coach of Thayer Academy. "She is so dynamic on the court. She can play all five positions and be highly effective."

Ducharme has maintained a B 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.

Ducharme joins Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Players of the Year Aliyah Boston (2018-19, 2017-18 & 2016-17, Worcester Academy), Katie Benzan (2015-16, Noble & Greenough School), and Ashley Russell (2014-15 & 2013-14, Braintree 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," Ducharme 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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