

CRETE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Morgan Maly of Crete High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Maly is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Crete 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 Maly as Nebraska'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, Maly 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-1 senior forward led the Cardinals to a 24-1 record and the Class B state tournament at the time of her selection. Maly averaged 19.9 points, 6.0 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.9 steals through 25 games. She was named to the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska First Team and the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State First Team as a junior.

Maly has volunteered locally on behalf of a mentoring program and has donated her time to youth sports camps. "Morgan Maly is a special talent," said Matt Kern, head coach at York High. "She's the best I've ever had to coach against. She stays calm and focused against multiple gimmick defenses, and she's as good a passer as I've seen. She is simply amazing."

Maly has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Creighton University 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.

Maly joins Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jayme Horan (2018-19, Millard South High School), Quinn Weidemann (2017-18, Westside High School), Chloe Dworak (2016-17, Lincoln Christian School), Rylie Cascio Jensen (2015-16, Fremont High School), Maddie Simon (2014-15, Pius X High School), and Jessica Shepard (2013-14, Fremont 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," Maly 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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