

O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Emma Ronsiek of O'Gorman High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Ronsiek is the first Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from O'Gorman 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 Ronsiek as South Dakota'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, Ronsiek 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 wing led the Knights to a 19-0 record and the Class AA state tournament at the time of her selection. Ronsiek averaged 17 points, 8.9 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 2.3 blocks and 1.8 steals through 19 games. A four-year starter who led her team to the 2017 Class AA state championship as a freshman, Ronsiek was a First-Team All-State selection as a sophomore and junior. She is ranked as the No. 1 player in South Dakota in the Class of 2020 by Prep Girls Hoops.

Also a standout volleyball player, Ronsiek volunteers locally at the Bishop Dudley House homeless shelter and at the Prince of Peace Retirement Community. She has donated her time on behalf of Feeding South Dakota as well. "You have to gameplan for Emma specifically, because you don't have a chance if you don't stop her," said Dakota Barrie, head coach at Roosevelt High. "She can play anywhere and everywhere on the court, from point guard to back to the basket. Her passes are unreal, her court IQ is unreal. She knows where teammates are if she doesn't have an open shot. Nothing is forced, it all comes to her."

Ronsiek has maintained a B average 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.

Ronsiek joins Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Madysen Vlastuin (2018-19, Lennox High School), Paiton Burckhard (2017-18, Aberdeen Central High School), Myah Selland (2016-17, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket), Brianna Kusler (2015-16, Aberdeen Central High School), Sydney Palmer (2014-15, T.F. Riggs High School), and Macy Miller (2013-14, Mitchell 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," Ronsiek 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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