

NORTH SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Kennady McQueen of North Summit High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. McQueen is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Summit 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 McQueen as Utah'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, McQueen 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-10 senior guard led the Braves to a 24-2 record and the Class 2A state championship game this past season. McQueen averaged 20.6 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 4.5 steals per game. A three-time All-State selection, she is also the Region 16 MVP.

Also a volleyball standout, McQueen has donated her time assisting the elderly and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball camps and an elementary school physical education program. "Kennady McQueen is the most complete player I've ever coached against," said Melissa Sorensen, head coach at Gunnison Valley High. "She's not only a scorer, but she also gets her teammates involved and she plays superb defense."

McQueen has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Utah 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.

McQueen joins Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kemery Martin (2018-19, Corner Canyon High School), Lauren Gustin (2017-18, Salem Hills High School), Taylor Moeaki (2016-17, American Fork High School), Kennedy Redding (2015-16, Bountiful High School), Lindsey Jensen (2014-15, Sky View High School), and Haley Bodnar (2013-14, Desert Hills 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," McQueen 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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