

WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Olivia Rockwood of Windsor High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Rockwood is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Windsor 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 Rockwood as Vermont'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, Rockwood 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-5 senior guard led the Yellow Jackets to a 17-3 record and the Division 3 state tournament at the time of her selection. Rockwood averaged 22.1 points, 5.9 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 4.8 steals through 20 games. A four-time All-Conference selection, she is a three-time member of the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen and was named First Team All-State by the Burlington Free Press.

Also a soccer standout, Rockwood has served as an elementary school mentor and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Olivia Rockwood is one of the few players in Vermont who can take a game over single-handedly," said Eric Ward, head coach at Thetford Academy. "She plays hard, she has great range on her shot and her basketball IQ is very high. She makes all her teammates better and she really knows the game."

Rockwood has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Maine 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.

Rockwood joins Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sadie Stetson (2018-19, 2017-18 & 2016-17, St. Johnsbury Academy), Sadie Otley (2015-16, Champlain Valley Union High School), Laurel Jaunich (2014-15, Champlain Valley Union High School), and Emily Kinneston (2013-14, Champlain Valley Union 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," Rockwood 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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