

**BURLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Amari Whiting** of **Burley High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Whiting is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Burley 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 court, distinguishes Whiting as Idaho'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, Whiting joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, CyFair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10 junior point guard led the Bobcats to a 24-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Whiting averaged 26.9 points, 10.5 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 5.7 steals per game, including a 25-point, 11-rebound effort in a 58-43 win over Skyline in the state final, which earned her tournament MVP honors. The leading scorer in school history (boys and girls), she netted a team single-game record 44 points this season and concluded her junior year with 1,910 points in her prep basketball career.

Whiting has volunteered locally at the Hoop Camp Foundation, a nonprofit focused on supporting the intellectually challenged through Unified Basketball. She has also donated her time as a peer tutor and as a youth basketball mentor/coach. "Amari is, hands down, the best player in the state of Idaho at all levels," said Ryan Harris, head coach of Preston High School. "She is physically stronger and jumps higher than any of the girls she plays against. She obviously lives for the game of basketball and it shows on the court."

Whiting has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oregon beginning in the fall of 2023.

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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Whiting joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Players of the Year Naya Ojukwu (2020-21, Mountain View High School), Peyton McFarland (2019-20, Boise High School), Darian White (2018-19, Mountain View High School), and Melody Kempton (2017-18, Post Falls High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the court. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Whiting has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Whiting is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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