

## **FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 8, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Sasha Goforth of Fayetteville High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Goforth is the second Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 Goforth as Arkansas' 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, Goforth 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, 2002-03 & 2003-04, 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 junior guard led the Bulldogs to a 20-5 record and the Class 6A semifinals this past season. Goforth averaged 16.8 points, 5.2 rebounds, 1.4 steals and 1.3 blocks per game. The Class 6A West MVP, she is a three-time All-Conference and three-time All-State honoree.

Goforth has volunteered locally on behalf of a senior citizens center, a Veterans Affairs hospital and the Special Olympics. "Goforth is a great all-around basketball player," said Scott Moore, head coach at Rogers Heritage High. "She's uber-talented and she plays with a very high motor."

Goforth has maintained a 3.62 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 & 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.

Goforth joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Christyn Williams (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, Central Arkansas Christian School) and Jordan Danberry (2013-14 & 2014-15, Conway High School as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Goforth 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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