

**HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Sydney Parrish of Hamilton Southeastern High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Parrish is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hamilton Southeastern 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 Parrish as Indiana'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, Parrish 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.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-2 junior guard led the Royals to a 27-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Parrish averaged 21.0 points, 6.9 rebounds, 2.5 assists, 1.9 steals and 1.0 blocks per game, and she contributed 30 points and 10 rebounds in the state final victory over Lawrence North High. Ranked as the No. 11 recruit in the Class of 2020 by ESPN, she concluded her junior year with 1,306 career points.

A member of the Unified Track Team at Hamilton Southeastern High, Parrish has volunteered locally with special-needs students and as a youth basketball coach. "Sydney has great range, sees the floor well, can defend and is a very good point guard," said Rod Parker, head coach of Homestead High School. "She is tough to guard and controls the tempo of the game."

Parrish has maintained a weighted 3.33 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.

Parrish joins Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Amy Dilk (2017-18, Carmel High School), Karissa McLaughlin (2016-17, Homestead High School), Jackie Young (2015-16, Princeton Community High School), Ali Patberg (2014-15, Columbus North High School), and Whitney Jennings (2013-14, Logansport High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Parrish 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.