

## **GORHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE 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 **Mackenzie Holmes of Gorham High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Holmes is the second Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gorham 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 Holmes as Maine'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, Holmes 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-2 senior center led the Rams to a 13-7 record and the Class AA regional semifinals this past season. Holmes averaged 30.1 points, 16.7 rebounds, 3.9 blocks and 2.3 steals per game, and converted 63.1 percent of her field goal attempts. The three-time Southwestern Maine Activities Association Player of the Year, she is also a three-time All-State honoree and is ranked as the nation's No. 53 recruit in the Class of 2019 by ESPN.

Holmes has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities and youth basketball programs. "I think Mackenzie Holmes is the best post player to ever come out of Maine," said Brody Artes, head coach at Windham High School. "She's so difficult to plan for due to her size, strength, basketball IQ and abilities on both ends of the floor. She's also an enthusiastic, positive leader on the court."

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

Holmes joins Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kolleen Bouchard (2017-18, Houlton High School), Emily Esposito (2016-17, Gorham High School), Nia Irving (2015-16 & 2014-15, Lawrence High School), and Allie Clement (2012-13 & 2013-14, Catherine McAuley High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award.

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

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