

## **CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Eboni Walker of Centennial High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Walker is the sixth Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Walker as Nevada'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, Walker 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 senior guard and forward led the Bulldogs to a 31-1 record and a fifth-straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Walker averaged 11.5 points, 10.1 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 2.1 steals per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she was nominated for the McDonald's All-American Game and is rated as the No. 43 recruit in the Class of 2019 by ESPN. A member of the Centennial High Recycling Club and Black Student Union, Walker has volunteered locally with Bulldog Buddies, which pairs special-needs students with general education peers. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Eboni catches your eye with her determination," said Jennifer Karner, head coach of Faith Lutheran High. "She is always in the right spot at the right time."

Walker has maintained a weighted 4.41 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Arizona State University beginning 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.

Walker joins Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Players of the Year Justice Ethridge (2017-18, Centennial High School), Samantha Thomas (2016-17, Centennial High School), Katie Turner (2015-16, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School), and Mallory McGwire (2014-15 & 2013-14, Reno High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award.

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