

LENNOX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Madysen Vlastuin of Lennox High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Vlastuin is the second Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lennox 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 Vlastuin as South Dakota'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, Vlastuin 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-1 junior forward had led the Orioles to an 18-3 record and a berth in the Class A SoDak16 at the time of her selection. Vlastuin averaged 16.6 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.1 assists through 21 games. The Dakota XII Conference MVP as a freshman and sophomore, she is also a two-time First Team All-State selection.

President of her school's Student Council and a devoted member of her church youth group, Vlastuin has volunteered locally on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and youth basketball camps. "Madysen Vlastuin has been a great player for Lennox since her eighth-grade season," said Jon Brooks, head coach at Vermillion High. "She's long and athletic with great skills, and this year she's expanded her game even more. She's a very versatile player, on both ends of the floor."

Vlastuin has maintained a 3.57 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.

Vlastuin joins Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Paiton Burckhard (2017-18, Aberdeen Central High School), Myah Selland (2016-17, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket), Brianna Kusler (2015-16, Aberdeen Central High School), Sydney Palmer (2014-15, T.F. Riggs High School), and Macy Miller (2013-14, Mitchell High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

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