

## NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 6, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Madison Layden of Northwestern High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Layden is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Northwestern 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 Layden 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, Layden 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, 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-1 senior guard averaged 25.6 points, 6.4 assists, 5.1 steals and 4.2 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Tigers (29-1) to the Class 4A state championship game. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Layden led Northwestern to the 2019 Class 3A state title. She concluded her prep basketball career with 2,360 points, 713 assists, 539 steals and 509 rebounds.

Also an All-State honoree with the Northwestern volleyball and tennis teams, Layden has volunteered locally with the Kokomo Humane Society and at a home for veterans. She has also donated her time to the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach and referee. "Madison is the most 'quiet' great player I've ever seen," said Meranda Cooper, head coach of Logansport High. "She makes being great at basketball look effortless."

Layden has maintained an unweighted 4.01 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Purdue 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 and 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.

Layden joins Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sydney Parrish (2018-19, Hamilton Southeastern High School), 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 won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

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