

## HAVRE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Kyndall Keller of Havre High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Keller is the second Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Havre 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 Keller as Montana’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, Keller 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 5-foot-8 senior guard had led the Blue Ponies to a 20-2 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Keller averaged 18.7 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 2.1 assists through 22 games as Havre pursued its third straight Class A state title. A three-time First Team All-State selection and the 2019 Great Falls Tribune Athlete of the Year, she is a two-time state tournament MVP. She entered the state tournament with 1,476 career points.

Vice president of the Havre senior class, Keller has volunteered locally as a special education tutor at her high school, and she has donated her time as a youth basketball coach and official. “Kyndall is a competitor and she plays extremely aggressively and disciplined,” said Nycole LaRowe, head coach of Fergus High. “Along with her natural athleticism, I think those things make her a huge threat on both ends of the court.”

Keller has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Montana 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.

Keller joins Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jamie Pickens (2018-19 & 2017-18, Helena High School), Sophia Stiles (2016-17 & 2015-16, Malta High School), Taylor Goligoski (2014-15, Hamilton High School), and Jill Barta (2013-14, Fairfield 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,” Keller 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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