CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Taylor Bigby of Centennial High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bigby 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 Bigby 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, Bigby 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 junior guard led the Bulldogs to a 24-6 record and a sixth-straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Bigby averaged 10.4 points, 4.9 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.8 steals per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection and the 2018-19 USA Today Nevada Player of the Year, she is ranked as the nation's No. 15 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Prospects Nation.

Bigby has volunteered locally with special needs students at her school, and she has donated her time on behalf of multiple community service activities through her church. "Taylor is the size of a post player, but she plays as a guard," said Jennifer Karner, head coach of Faith Lutheran High. "When she chooses to take over a game, there isn't much opposing players can do."

Bigby has maintained a weighted 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oregon beginning in the fall of 2021.

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.

Bigby joins Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Players of the Year Eboni Walker (2018-19, Centennial High School), 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 since its inception in 2007.

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

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