

## CASHMERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Hailey Van Lith of Cashmere High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Van Lith is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cashmere 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 Van Lith as Washington'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, Van Lith 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-9 senior guard led the Bulldogs to a 22-0 record and the quarterfinals of the Class 1A state tournament at the time of her selection. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Van Lith averaged 33.8 points, 9.5 rebounds, 4.8 steals and 4.7 assists through 22 games. A starter for the USA Basketball U19 Women's World Cup Team, she was also MVP of the 2019 FIBA 3x3 U18 World Cup. The leading scorer in state history for girls basketball, Van Lith is a four-time Caribou Trail League MVP and was the Class 1A state tournament MVP as a junior. She has been chosen to play in both the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic.

A math tutor in her school, Van Lith has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's youth ministry as well as youth basketball camps. "Hailey Van Lith continues to dominate and play at the highest level," said Alyssa Goins, head coach at La Salle High. "She's managed to up her game even more this year, becoming a better passer, rebounder and defender."

Van Lith has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

Two-time winner Van Lith joins Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Lexie Hull (2017-18 & 2016-17, Central Valley High School), Mikayla Pivec (2015-16 & 2014-15, Lynnwood High School), and Brittany McPhee (2013-14, Mt. Rainier 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," Van Lith 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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