

AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Lexi Donarski of Aquinas High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Donarski is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Aquinas 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 Donarski as Wisconsin'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, Donarski 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-10 senior guard led the Bugolds to a 22-1 record and the Division 4 sectional semifinals at the time of her selection. Donarski averaged 24.0 points, 7.0 assists, 5.7 steals and 4.4 rebounds through 23 games. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, Donarski is the Mississippi Valley Conference Player of the Year and has been chosen to play in both the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic.

Also a volleyball and track standout, Donarski has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home, a community garden, food pantries and youth sports camps. "I've been around high school girls basketball for over 20 years, and Lexi Donarski is, by far, the best player I have ever seen," said Nate Johnson, head coach at Holmen High. "She can do everything: score, rebound, pass, defend."

Donarski has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Iowa State 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.

Donarski joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Players of the Year McKenna Warnock (2018-19, Monona Grove High School), Sydnee Roby (2017-18, Rufus King High School), Estella Moschkau (2016-17, Edgewood High School), Hannah Whitish (2015-16, Barneveld High School), and Arike Ogunbowale (2014-15 & 2013-14, Divine Savior Holy Angels 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," Donarski 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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