

BORAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® IDAHO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 26, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Austin Bolt of Borah High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Bolt is the fourth Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Borah 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 Bolt as Idaho's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Bolt joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound senior forward led the Lions to a 22-5 record and their second straight Class 5A state title this past season. Bolt averaged 19.4 points, 12.5 rebounds, 2.2 steals, 2.1 assists and a block. A two-time First-Team All-State selection entering the season, Bolt scored 35 points with six rebounds and four steals in the state championship game win over Post Falls.

Also the 2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Football Player of the Year winner as a quarterback and safety, Bolt is the state's reigning 400-meter dash champion as well. He has donated his time to youth football and basketball camps and as a youth basketball official. In addition, he has volunteered locally with Boise Rescue Mission Ministries. "Austin Bolt is a difference-maker," said Travis Noble, head coach at Timberline High. "We prepared more for him than any player in our league. I've seen him do things and I say, 'How did that ever happen?' He has a constant motor."

Bolt has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play football on scholarship at Boise State University this fall.

Bolt joins Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Michael Ure,(2018-19, Ririe High School), Jake Pfennigs (2017-18, Post Falls High School), Kolby Lee (2016-17, Rocky Mountain High School), Connor Harding (2015-16, Highland High School), and Stefan Gonzalez (2014-15, Highland High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

The 2019-2020 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year announcement has been temporarily postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To ensure the safety of everyone involved, The Gatorade Company will follow the guidance of experts and health officials as it determines the appropriate time to announce this year's winner.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Bolt also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He 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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