

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

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Taylor Bigby of Centennial High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Bigby is the fourth 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 June, Bigby joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1 senior guard led the Bulldogs to three state titles in her three years on the team. A two-time First Team All-State selection and the 2018-19 USA Today Nevada Player of the Year, Bigby is ranked as the No. 29 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Prospects Nation. She concluded her prep basketball career with 780 points, 314 rebounds and 161 steals.

Bigby has volunteered locally with special needs students at her school, and she has donated her time to multiple community service activities through her church. "Taylor is unlike most players that I see or coach due to her versatility," said Karen Weitz, head coach of Centennial High. "She is able to play all positions 1-5 at Centennial. Not only is she able to play them, she is able to guard all positions. That is rare."

Bigby has maintained a weighted 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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 & 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Bigby joins Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Players of the Year Eboni Walker (2018-19, Centennial High School), Justice Ethridge (2017-18, Centennial High School), and Samantha Thomas (2016-17, Centennial High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Bigby has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Bigby is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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