

DOWLING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 8, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Caitlin Clark of Dowling Catholic High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Clark is the second Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dowling Catholic 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 Clark as Iowa'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, Clark 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, 2002-03 & 2003-04, 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.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11 junior guard led the Maroons to a 17-8 record and the Class 5A semifinals this past season. Clark averaged 32.6 points, 6.8 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 2.3 steals per game. A First Team All-State honoree, she was selected to the 2018 USA TODAY national ALL-USA Third Team and is ranked as the nation's No. 4 recruit in the Class of 2020 by ESPN.

Clark has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, an animal shelter, the Special Olympics and a children's hospital. "With her size, speed and strength, Clark is unstoppable when she goes to the hoop," said Kenton Tennal, head coach at Urbandale High School. "She can also hit from three and mid-range, and she's a lockdown defender. Her skill is incredible. I've coached in three states, and when she's locked in, she's the best I've seen."

Clark has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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. 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.

Clark joins Gatorade Iowa Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ashley Joens (2017-18, Iowa City High School), Elle Ruffridge (2016-17 & 2015-16, Pocahontas Area High School), Audrey Faber (2014-15, Dowling Catholic High School), and Haley Lorenzen (2013-14, City High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

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