

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729- 3685)

**ARCHBISHOP MITTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Haley Jones of Archbishop Mitty High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Mitty 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 Jones as California's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Jones joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot-2 junior forward and guard had led the Monarchs to a 28-0 record and a berth in the Open Division state quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Jones averaged 21.4 points, 9.6 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 2.5 blocks through 28 games. The West Catholic Athletic League Player of the Year, she earned MVP honors at the Nike Tournament of Champions. Jones was a First Team All-State selection and the California Sophomore of the Year in 2017.

A devoted member of her church youth group and a student ambassador in her school, Jones has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement community and youth sports programs. "There's nothing Haley Jones can't do on the basketball court," said Wade Nakamura, head coach at Presentation High. "She's got great size and length and she's very unselfish. She just makes the game look easy."

Jones has maintained a 3.26 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. 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade California Girls Basketball Players of the Year Destiny Littleton (2016-17, The Bishop's School), Sabrina Ionescu (2015-16, Miramonte High School), Katie Lou Samuelson (2014-15 & 2013-14, Mater Dei High School), Erica McCall (2012-13, Ridgeview High School), Nirra Fields (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (2010-11, Mater Dei High School), Chelsea Gray (2009-10, St. Mary's High School), Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (2008-09, Mater Dei High School), Jasmine Dixon (2007-08, Long Beach Poly High School), and Jeanette Pohlen (2006-07, Brea Olinda High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Haley will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

###