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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Azzi Fudd of St. John's College High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Fudd is the tenth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Fudd as District of Columbia'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, Fudd 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 5-foot-11 freshman guard led the Lady Cadets to a 32-2 record and a District of Columbia State Athletic Association championship this past season. Fudd averaged 24 points, 5.0 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.8 steals per game while shooting 50 percent both from the field and behind the 3-point arc, helping the Lady Cadets win their fourth DCSAA title in five years. The first freshman in history to win Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player honors, Fudd was also named DCSAA Tournament MVP after scoring 22 points with eight rebounds in the championship game.

Also a standout flag football player whose team, the Arlington Fusion, won the 2017 NFL FLAG Girls' National Championship, Fudd has donated her time as a youth mentor. "Azzi is a fantastic player and I think she is an awesome candidate for Gatorade Player of the Year," said Deonte Cameron, head coach at Washington Latin Public Charter School. "Her talent at this level is something that I have not seen in a long time. She has an all-around game and her shooting is impeccable."

Fudd has maintained a weighted 3.85 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore year of high school in the 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.

Fudd joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Aisha Sheppard (2016-17, St. John's College High School), Isabella Alarie (2015-16, National Cathedral School), Marta Sniezek (2014-15 & 2013-14, National Cathedral School), Lindsay Allen (2012-13, St. John's College High School), Katie Gillespie (2011-12, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Mooriah Rowser (2010-11, St. John's College High School), Nicola Zimmer (2009-10, St. John's College High School), Taylor Hilton (2008-09, Sidwell Friends School), Patrice Johnson (2007-08, HD Woodson High School), and Tia Bell (2006-07, HD Woodson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Azzi 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/>.

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