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RANCHO CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® CALIFORNIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Evan Mobley of Rancho Christian High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Mobley is the first Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rancho Christian 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 Mobley as California's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Mobley 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 7-foot, 200-pound junior center led the Eagles to a 26-6 record and the Open Division playoffs this past season. Mobley averaged 19.2 points, 10.4 rebounds, 4.7 blocks and 3.3 assists per game. Co-MVP of the Southeastern League, he was a standout for the gold medal winning USA Basketball U17 Men's World Cup team in 2018, and is a Third Team Naismith High School All-American, one of just two underclassmen so honored. Mobley is ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the class of 2020 by ESPN.

Mobley has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and coaching youth sports teams, and has donated his time on behalf of violence prevention programs. "Evan Mobley just can't be stopped," said Josh Giles, head coach at Centennial High. "He's got a great inside game, he can handle the ball, he can step out and shoot it. There are no holes or flaws in his game. He has the potential to be a Kevin Durant."

Mobley has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his 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.

Mobley joins Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year David Singleton (2017-18, Bishop Montgomery High School), Marvin Bagley (2016-17, Sierra Canyon School), Lonzo Ball (2015-16, Chino Hills High School), and Tyler Dorsey (2014-15, Maranatha High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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