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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Casey Morsell of St. John's College High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Morsell is the second Gatorade District of Columbia Boys 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 Morsell as District of Columbia'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, Morsell 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 6-foot-3, 170-pound senior guard averaged 17.0 points, 5.5 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 1.5 steals and 1.0 blocks per game, leading the Cadets (27-12) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tournament championship game this past season. The co-Most Valuable Player of the WCAC, Morsell is also a two-time All-Conference selection. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,459 points.

Morsell has volunteered locally as a student leader at St. John's Day of Leadership for the Class of 2022. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives on behalf of his school. "Casey brings toughness, scoring and most importantly, he has an impact on winning," said Neil Berkman, head coach of Bishop Ireton High. "His basketball IQ is also high."

Morsell has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning 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.

Morsell joins Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Myles Dread (2017-18, Gonzaga College High School), Luka Garza (2016-17, Maret School), Chris Lykes (2015-16, Gonzaga College High School), and Bryant Crawford (2014-15, Gonzaga College High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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