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GLENS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 **Joe Girard III of Glens Falls High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Girard III is the first Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Glens Falls 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 Girard III as New York'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, Girard III 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-2, 185-pound senior guard had led the Indians to a 25-1 record and the Class B semifinals at the time of his selection. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Girard averaged 49.4 points, seven rebounds and seven assists through 26 games. The leading scorer in state history with 4,589 career points entering the state round of four, he is a four-time Foothills Council League MVP, a three-time First Team All-State honoree, and this season's New York Mr. Basketball.

Also a football standout, Girard has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen, clothing-donation drives, an elementary school reading initiative and youth sports programs. "Joe Girard can score on any planet in a variety of ways," said Doug Fraser, head coach at Queensbury High. "He's amazing, and he's so much more than just a long range bomber."

Girard has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Syracuse University 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.

Two-time winner Girard III joins Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Hameir Wright (2016-17, Albany Academy), Kevin Huerter (2015-16, Shenendehowa High School), and Cheick Diallo (2014-15, Our Savior New American School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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