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**Contact: Kisa Mugwanya (312-729- 3670)  
GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com**

## **OLYMPUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® UTAH BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Rylan Jones of Olympus High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Jones is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olympus 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 Utah'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, Jones 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-1, 160-pound senior guard led the Titans to a 23-3 record and the Class 5A semifinals this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Jones averaged 21.6 points, 8.0 assists, 7.9 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game. He was also named the Deseret News Mr. Basketball and the Salt Lake Tribune Player of the Year as a junior.

Jones has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Rylan Jones is probably the best point guard I've seen in 30 years of high school basketball," said Jeff Emery, head coach at Viewmont High. "He does things that no other high school player can do."

Jones has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Utah 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 Jones joins Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jaxon Brenchley (2016-17, Ridgeline High School), Frank Jackson (2015-16, Lone Peak High School), and Zac Seljaas (2014-15, Bountiful High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Jones 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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