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

FEDERAL WAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 **Jaden McDaniels of Federal Way High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McDaniels is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Federal Way 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 McDaniels as Washington'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, McDaniels 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-10, 185-pound senior forward led the Eagles to a 26-3 record and third place in the Class 4A state tournament this past season. McDaniels averaged 23.2 points, 10.3 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 2.1 steals per game. The Class 4A Player of the Year, he is a two-time First Team All-State honoree and North Puget Sound League MVP. A McDonald's All-American, McDaniels was also selected as a Second Team Naismith High School All-American.

A member of his school's American Sign Language club, McDaniels has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school reading initiative as well as youth basketball programs. "In over 20 years coaching, Jaden McDaniels is probably the most talented high school player I've coached against," said Will Hutchens, head coach at Dayton High. "The plays he makes are just another level above most high school kids. It was easy to look at him, even two years ago, and see that he was going to play in the NBA one day."

McDaniels has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

McDaniels joins Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brock Ravet (2017-18, Kittitas Secondary School), Michael Porter Jr. (2016-17, Nathan Hale High School), Isiah Brown (2015-16, Lakeside School), and Dejourne Murray (2014-15, Rainier Beach High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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