

THOMAS E. EDWARDS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jacorrhiah Bracey of Thomas E. Edwards High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bracey is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Thomas E. Edwards 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 Bracey as Mississippi’s best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Bracey joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11 senior guard led the Tigers to an 18-4 record and the Class 3A state semifinals at the time of her selection. Bracey averaged 35 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists through 22 games. A First Team All-State honoree, she is also the Region 3 Player of the Year and was twice named to the Clarion Ledger Dandy Dozen. Bracey is ranked as the nation’s No. 48 recruit in the Class of 2020 by ESPN.

Bracey has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home and an after-school program for elementary school students. “Bracey was by far the best player we faced this season,” said Wade Hawkins, head coach at Ridgeland High. “She can score off the catch or off the dribble, and she gets shots for herself and for others.”

Bracey has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Mississippi 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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Bracey joins Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Players of the Year Endya Buford (2018-19, Olive Branch High School), Destiny Haymer (2017-18, Holmes County Central High School), Myah Taylor (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Olive Branch High School), and Victoria Vivians (2013-14, Scott Central High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Bracey also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She 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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