

THE URSULINE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 6, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Sonia Citron of The Ursuline School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Citron is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from The Ursuline 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 Citron as New York'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, Citron 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 6-foot-1 junior guard led the Koalas to a 22-0 record and the sectional semifinals at the time of her selection. Citron averaged 23.5 points, 10.3 rebounds, 4.0 steals and 3.1 assists through 22 games. A Second Team All-State selection as a sophomore, Citron is an All-Section 1 honoree and led the USA Basketball U16 Women's National Team to a gold medal at the 2019 FIBA Americas Championship.

Citron has volunteered locally on behalf of Warm Hands, Warm Hearts, which provides meals for needy families. "Citron is a complete player in every sense of the word," said Michael Blanco, head coach at Scarsdale High. "She can play any position and guard any position. She can score on every part of the court and handle the ball. She always defends the top player on the opposing team."

Citron has maintained a weighted 4.83 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Citron joins Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Celeste Taylor (2018-19, Long Island Lutheran High School), Emily Engstler (2017-18, St. Francis Preparatory School), Andra Espinoza-Hunter (2016-17, Ossining High School), Dominique Toussaint (2015-16, Christ the King High School), Lauren Brozoski (2014-15, Long Island Lutheran High School), and Sierra Calhoun (2013-14, Christ the King 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," Citron 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

###