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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Aisha Sheppard of St. John's College High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Sheppard is the ninth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 court, distinguishes Sheppard as District of Columbia's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Sheppard joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06, Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10 senior guard led the Cadets to a 30-2 record and the District of Columbia State Athletic Association title this past season. Sheppard averaged 14 points, 3.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game while shooting nearly 50 percent (66-for-135) from 3-point range. A First Team All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selection, she is ranked as the nation's No. 34 recruit in the Class of 2017 by espnW HoopGurlz.

Sheppard has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group and as a youth basketball coach. "Aisha Sheppard is an explosive scorer with a unique skill set compared to other high school girls," said St. John's head coach Jonathan Scribner. "She has often changed an entire game in a short few minutes with three or four straight three-pointers. She is a great defender and teammate."

Sheppard has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Sheppard joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Isabella Alarie (2015-16, National Cathedral School), Marta Sniezek (2014-15 & 2013-14, National Cathedral School), Lindsay Allen (2012-13, St. John's College High School), Katie Gillespie (2011-12, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Mooriah Rowser (2010-11, St. John's College High School), Nicola Zimmer (2009-10, St. John's College High School), Taylor Hilton (2008-09, Sidwell Friends School), Patrice Johnson (2007-08, H.D. Woodson High School), and Tia Bell (2006-07, H.D. Woodson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Aisha will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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