

PISGAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 8, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Annie Hughes of Pisgah High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Hughes is the first Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pisgah 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 Hughes as Alabama'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, Hughes 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, 2002-03 & 2003-04, 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-9 senior guard led the Eagles to a 34-1 record and a second straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Hughes averaged 21.3 points, 7.0 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 3.4 steals per game, including 24 points and eight rebounds in a 46-41 win over Montgomery Academy in the state final. The two-time Class 3A State Tournament MVP, Hughes is a three-time Area 15 Player of the Year. She concluded her prep basketball career with 2,694 points.

An All-State shortstop on the Pisgah softball team, Hughes has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and as part of community beautification projects. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Annie is a great ballplayer and she makes a big impact on her team," said Steve King, head coach of Fyffe High. "She makes it difficult to game-plan for her."

Hughes has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Auburn University beginning 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. 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.

Hughes joins Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Players of the Year Zipporah Broughton (2017-18, Lee High School), Bianca Jackson (2016-17, Brewbaker Tech), Jasmine Walker (2015-16, Jeff Davis High School), Shaquera Wade (2014-15, Huntsville High School), and Alexis Jennings (2013-14, Sparkman High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award.

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