

ARCHBISHOP MITTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 **Haley Jones of Archbishop Mitty High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Jones is a two-time winner and the first Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Mitty 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 Jones as California'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, Jones 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 6-foot-2 senior forward and guard led the Monarchs to a 25-3 record and the quarterfinals of the Open Division state tournament. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Jones averaged 26.1 points, 12.1 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 3.7 steals per game. A finalist for the Naismith Girls High School Player of the Year Award and the Morgan Wootten Player of the Year Award, she led Mitty to the CIF-Central Coast Section Open Division crown, and has been chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game. The CIF-CCS Player of the Year, Jones was a starter for the gold-medal winning USA Basketball U17 Women's World Cup Team.

A devoted member of her church youth group and a student ambassador in her school, Jones has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement community and youth sports programs. "Haley Jones can do it all," said Wade Nakamura, head coach at Presentation High. "She can handle the ball, pass, shoot the three, finish at the basket, defend guards and posts. She takes over games in a variety of ways and makes it look effortless."

Jones has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford 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. 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.

Two-time winner Jones joins Gatorade California Girls Basketball Players of the Year Destiny Littleton (2016-17, The Bishop's School), Sabrina Ionescu (2015-16, Miramonte High School), and Katie Lou Samuelson (2014-15 & 2013-14, Mater Dei High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

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