

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Azzi Fudd of St. John's College High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Fudd 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 field, distinguishes Fudd 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 to be announced in March, Fudd 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 sophomore guard led the Cadets to a 35-1 record and both the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship and the District of Columbia State Athletic Association tournament title this past season. A two-time WCAC Player of the Year, Fudd averaged 26.3 points, 6.2 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.9 blocks per game. Ranked as the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2021 by ProspectsNation.com, she was the only sophomore member of the gold-medal winning U.S. team at the FIBA Under-17 World Cup in Belarus last July. She is also the first sophomore in history to be a Naismith Award finalist.

Fudd planned and hosted "Hooping for a Cure," a basketball clinic to raise money for the Pat Summit Foundation. She has volunteered locally with the Catholic Youth Organization and as a youth basketball coach. "Azzi Fudd is the ultimate competitor," said Frank Oliver, head coach of Bishop McNamara High. "She's fundamentally sound and can shoot the basketball with accuracy and poise. She can play on or off the ball, and she's a tough defender."

Fudd has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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 & 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 Fudd joins Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Aisha Sheppard (2016-17, St. John's College High School), Isabella Alarie (2015-16, National Cathedral School), and Marta Sniezek (2014-15 & 2013-14, National Cathedral School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

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

###