

**WORCESTER ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Aliyah Boston of Worcester Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Boston is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Worcester Academy.

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 Boston as Massachusetts' 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, Boston 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 two-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-5 senior post player led the Hilltoppers to a 24-1 record and a second straight New England Prep School Athletic Council Class AA tournament championship this past season. Boston averaged 17.3 points, 10.6 rebounds, 3.2 blocks, 2.5 assists and 2.0 steals per game. A member of the USA Basketball Under-17 Women's National Team, Boston was the leading scorer and rebounder for Team USA during its gold medal run at the World Cup in Belarus last July.

A native of the Virgin Islands who lives with her aunt in Worcester, Boston is the president of the Worcester Academy Varsity Club. She has donated her time locally as a student ambassador for her school and as a youth basketball coach. "You cannot coach size, and at our level it is a difference-maker," said Caroline Stedman, head coach of Deerfield Academy. "Aliyah can shoot, handle the ball and finish at the rim."

Boston has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Three-time winner Boston joins Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Basketball Players of the Year Katie Benzan (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Noble & Greenough School) as athletes who have won the basketball award.

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