

**MILLARD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 8, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jayne Horan of Millard South High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Horan is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard South 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 Horan as Nebraska'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, Horan 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.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot junior guard and forward led the Patriots to a 21-4 record and the Class A quarterfinals this past season. Horan averaged 23.1 points, 7.9 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game, converting 56.3 percent of her field goal attempts. An All-State selection as a sophomore, she was named to the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska Third Team and the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State Third Team.

Horan has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army. "Jayne Horan is a very skilled player who works very hard on her game," said Richard Mintken, head coach at Bellevue West High. "She can play inside if you put a guard on her and she can also stretch the floor. She's aggressive, she rebounds well and she can defend all five positions on the floor."

Horan has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. She will begin his senior 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.

Horan joins Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Quinn Weidemann (2017-18, Westside High School), Chloe Dworak (2016-17, Lincoln Christian School), Rylie Cascio Jensen (2015-16, Fremont High School), Maddie Simon (2014-15, Pius X High School), and Jessica Shepard (2013-14, Fremont High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Horan 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).