

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Diamond Miller of Franklin High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Miller is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Franklin 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 Miller as New Jersey'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, Miller 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-3 senior guard had led the Warriors to a 29-0 record and the Group 4 North 2 finals at the time of her selection. Miller averaged 22.1 points, 8.2 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 3.1 blocks through 29 games. A First Team All-State honoree and the Skyland Conference Player of the Year, she's a former member of the USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team and has been chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game.

A peer tutor in her school system, Miller has volunteered locally on behalf of elementary school reading initiatives, breast cancer awareness programs and youth basketball clinics. "Diamond Miller is dynamic and versatile, just a special player," said Jamee Bush, head coach at Hunterdon Central High. "She can take you down in the post, she can pull up for three, she can attack the basket. She makes incredibly smart reads and decisions with the basketball, and defensively, her length and quickness are unmatched."

Miller has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Miller joins Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Dara Mabrey (2017-18, Manasquan High School), Dara Mabrey (2016-17, Manasquan High School), Jocelyn Willoughby (2015-16, Newark Academy), Marina Mabrey (2014-15, Manasquan High School), and Taylor Rooks (2013-14, Gill St. Bernard's School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

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