

**COLUMBUS AFRICENTRIC EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE  
NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Jordan Horston of Columbus Africentric Early College High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Horston is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Columbus Africentric Early 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 Horston as Ohio'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, Horston 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 guard had led the Nubians to a 24-0 record, a No. 3 national ranking in the USA TODAY's Super 25 and the Division III regional semifinals at the time of her selection. Horston averaged 18.1 points, 7.1 rebounds, 6.0 assists and 3.8 steals through 24 games. The FIBA tournament MVP for the gold-medal winning USA Basketball U17 Women's World Cup Team, she is a three-time All-State honoree and has been chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game. Horston was the Division III co-Player of the Year as a junior and is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2019 by ESPN.

A member of her school's Student Council, Horston has volunteered locally on behalf of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. "In my 29 years of coaching basketball at the high school and collegiate level, I've never seen a more dominant player than Jordan Horston," said Landon Fraker, head coach at Fairbanks High. "Her game doesn't have a flaw. She's able to shoot the three, mid-range and attack the basket, and she's a very good defender with an amazing nose for the ball."

Horston has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Horston joins Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kierstan Bell (2017-18, Canton McKinley High School), Dee Bekelja (2016-17, Solon High School), Jensen Caretti (2015-16, River High School), Hallie Thome (2014-15, Chagrin Falls High School), and Kelsey Mitchell (2013-14, Princeton High School) as athletes who have recently won the basketball award.

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

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