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**BAPTIST PREP STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED**  
**GATORADE® ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Issac McBride of Baptist Prep** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McBride is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Baptist Prep.

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 McBride as Arkansas' best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, McBride joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound senior guard led the Eagles to a 30-4 record and the Class 3A quarterfinals this past season. McBride averaged 28.9 points, 4.5 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game, while converting 47.5 percent of his 3-point attempts. An All-State honoree, he was selected to the All Arkansas Preps First Team and the USA TODAY's ALL-USA Arkansas First Team as a junior. McBride has also been chosen to play in the Big Baller Brand All-American Game.

A devoted member of his church community, McBride has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, Vacation Bible School and youth basketball camps. "Issac McBride is the real deal," said Devin Jones, head coach at Glen Rose High. "He can shoot off the dribble or the catch and he has great range. He has great handles and he's also very unselfish. He gets his teammates involved, but he knows when to take over."

McBride has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kansas 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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

McBride joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaiah Joe (2017-18, North High School, High School), Daniel Gafford (2016-17, El Dorado High School), Malik Monk (2015-16, Bentonville High School), and Kevaughn Allen (2014-15, North Little Rock High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," McBride also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He 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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