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## **DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 **Justin Moore of DeMatha Catholic High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Moore is the fifth Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from DeMatha Catholic 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 Moore as Maryland's 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, Moore 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-5, 195-pound senior guard led the Stags to a 30-4 record and a second straight Maryland Private School Tournament state championship this past season. Moore averaged 18.2 points, 7.1 rebounds, 4.1 assists, 2.0 steals and 1.1 blocks per game. Moore, who also led DeMatha to victory in the season-ending Alhambra Catholic Invitational, was the co-MVP of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference and a two-time First Team All-WCAC selection.

Moore has volunteered locally on multiple community service initiatives through his school. "Justin is a very efficient shooter and scorer," said G.J. Kissal, head coach of Our Lady of Good Counsel High. "He is an underrated defender. And when he's on, he is very difficult to guard."

Moore has maintained a 3.02 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Villanova University 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. 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.

Moore joins Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jalen Smith (2017-18 & 2016-17, Mount Saint Joseph High School), Isaiah Miles (2015-16, Gwynn Park High School), and Justin Robinson (2014-15, Saint James School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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