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BLAIR ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® NEW JERSEY BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jabri Abdur-Rahim of Blair Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Abdur-Rahim is the second Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blair Academy.

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 Abdur-Rahim as New Jersey'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, Abdur-Rahim 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-7, 200-pound junior forward led the Buccaneers to a 22-4 record and the Prep A state championship this past season. Abdur-Rahim averaged 15.3 points, 7.1 rebounds and 1.2 steals per game. A First Team All-State selection, he has been invited to the USA Basketball Junior National Team minicamp and is ranked as the nation's No. 37 recruit in the Class of 2019 by Rivals.com.

Abdur-Rahim has volunteered on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, a food bank and a program distributing school supplies to underprivileged children. "Jabri Abdur-Rahim is just a really good basketball player," said Vincent Johnson, head coach at Pope John XXIII High. "He can score on all three levels, and he can defend multiple positions. He led that team to a state championship."

Abdur-Rahim has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He 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. 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.

Abdur-Rahim joins Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jahvon Quinerly (2017-18 & 2016-17, Hudson Catholic Regional High School), Tyus Battle (2015-16, St. Joseph High School), and Malachi Richardson (2014-15, Trenton Catholic Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Abdur-Rahim 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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