

GREENS FARMS ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Allie Palmieri of Greens Farms Academy** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Palmieri is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Greens Farms 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 Palmieri as Connecticut'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, Palmieri 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, 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 5-foot-10 junior wing had led the Dragons to a 22-3 record at the time of her selection. Palmieri averaged 24.2 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.3 assists, 3.9 steals and 1.3 blocks through 25 games. A 2019 CHSCA All-State selection, she was also the 2019 Kingswood Oxford Tournament MVP.

Palmieri has volunteered locally as a math tutor at Bridgeport's Classical Studies Magnet Academy. She has also donated her time on behalf of the Nichols Improvement Association's Jingle Bell Run and as a coach with the InSports Skills Basketball Clinic. "When you watch Allie play, what's most impressive is how composed she is on every possession, and how she knows exactly when to take over or when to pass," said Kwame Burwell, assistant coach at Notre Dame Catholic High School (Fairfield). "In my view, I would rank her as the best player in the state right now."

Palmieri has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play basketball on scholarship at Boston College beginning in the fall of 2021.

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 and 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.

Palmieri joins Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Players of the Year Makenzie Helms (2018-19, East Haven High School), Bella Santoro (2017-18, Mercy High School), McKenna Dale (2016-17, Edwin O. Smith High School), Shaquana Edwards (2015-16, Weaver High School), and Kiah Gillespie (2014-15 & 2013-14, Capital Preparatory Magnet School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

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