

## ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 6, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Megan Bodziony of St. Andrew's School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Bodziony is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Andrew's 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 Bodziony as Rhode Island'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, Bodziony 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 senior guard led the Saints to a 19-9 record and a berth in the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class AA Tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Bodziony averaged 11.1 points, 5.3 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 3.0 steals through 28 games. A 2018-19 NEPSAC Class A All-New England selection, Bodziony missed the entire 2017-18 season with a knee injury. She entered the postseason with 1,361 points in her prep basketball career.

A student ambassador at St. Andrew's, Bodziony has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Megan is an excellent playmaker and shot-maker," said Alex Gallagher, head coach of the Noble & Greenough School. "She can both distribute and score the ball at a high level, and she is a very hard-nosed defender who has no back-down at all."

Bodziony has maintained an unweighted 4.09 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Fordham University 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 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.

Bodziony joins Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Players of the Year Leiya Stuart (2018-19, St. George's School), Oluchi Eziemba (2017-18 & 2016-17, Moses Brown School), Celia Tomlinson (2015-16, South Kingstown High School), Sarah Middleton (2014-15, Barrington High School), and Taylor Buckley (2013-14, North Kingstown High 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," Bodziony 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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