

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® MINNESOTA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 26, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Jalen Suggs of Minnehaha Academy** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Suggs is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Minnehaha 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 Suggs as Minnesota's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Suggs 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.).

Also the state's 2019-20 Gatorade Football Player of the Year, the 6-foot-4, 195-pound senior guard led the Redhawks to a 24-3 record and a berth in the Section 4-AAA Tournament championship game at the time of his selection. Suggs averaged 23.3 points, 7.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 3.9 steals through 27 games. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Suggs is one of five finalists for the Naismith High School Trophy. He entered the sectional final with 2,915 points, 881 rebounds, 727 assists and 507 steals in his prep basketball career.

Suggs has volunteered locally with Teens Networking Together, a youth empowerment group, and as a youth basketball and football coach. "Jalen has been one of the most difficult players to game-plan against, not only this year but throughout his career," said Tyler Biwan, head coach of the Blake School. "His deep range requires a defender to come out with a hand up, yet his quick first step makes it difficult for even our quickest defender to keep him in front."

Suggs has maintained a 3.12 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Gonzaga University this fall.

Suggs joins Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matthew Hurt (2018-19, John Marshall High School), Tre Jones (2017-18 & 2016-17, Apple Valley High School), Gary Trent Jr. (2015-16, Apple Valley High School), and J.T. Gibson (2014-15, Champlin Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.

The 2019-2020 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year announcement has been temporarily postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To ensure the safety of everyone involved, The Gatorade Company will follow the guidance of experts and health officials as it determines the appropriate time to announce this year's winner.

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