

**CARAVEL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced India Johnston of Caravel Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Johnston is the third Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Caravel 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 Johnston as Delaware'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 June, Johnston joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8 junior guard led the Buccaneers to a 10-5 record and the state semifinals this past season. Johnston averaged 19.2 points, 5.2 rebounds, 4.8 steals and 4.2 assists per game. The only underclassman on the All-State First Team, she was named Player of the Year by the Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association.

Johnston has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "India Johnston is a very talented player with an arsenal of ways to attack your defense," said Carolyn Connors, head coach at Wilmington Friends School. "She can obviously shoot, she has a very quick first step and she can post up inside. She also plays tough, aggressive defense. She's a game-changer, but she's a very unselfish player too, constantly creating opportunities for her teammates."

Johnston has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Johnston joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Basketball Players of the Year Allie Kubek (2019-20, Sanford School), Julie Kulesza (2018-19 & 2017-18, Conrad Schools of Science), and Maggie Connolly (2016-17, Ursuline Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Johnston has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Johnston is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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