

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Azzi Fudd of St. John's College High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Fudd is the eighth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College High 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 Fudd as District of Columbia'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, Fudd 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 2018-19 Gatorade National Player of the Year and a two-time Gatorade Player of the Year for the District of Columbia, the 5-foot-11 senior guard led the Cadets to a 9-1 record this past season. Fudd averaged 25.2 points, 7.1 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 3.2 steals per game. Also a two-time Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Fudd is a McDonald's All-American Game selection and was a finalist for the 2021 Naismith Trophy. She is ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2021 by HoopGurlz and Prospects Nation.

Fudd has volunteered locally with the Catholic Youth Organization and as a youth basketball coach. "Azzi is the most complete player I've coached against in 27 years," said Scott Allen, head coach of Paul VI High. "She makes everyone around her better and usually is the hardest-working player at both ends."

Fudd has maintained a weighted 3.89 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Three-time winner Fudd joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kiki Rice (2019-20, Sidwell Friends School), and Aisha Sheppard (2016-17, St. John's College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Fudd has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Fudd 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

###