

**CYPRESS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Rori Harmon of Cypress Creek High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Harmon is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cypress Creek 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 Harmon as Texas'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, Harmon joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogumike (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-6 senior guard averaged 18.0 points, 5.8 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 5.2 steals per game this past season, leading the Cougars (32-1) to the Conference 6A state semifinals. A McDonald's All-American Game selection and a semifinalist for the Naismith Trophy, Harmon is ranked as the No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Prospects Nation. She concluded her prep basketball career with 2,572 points, 758 rebounds, 745 assists and 700 steals.

Harmon volunteered as part of community beautification projects in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, and she has donated her time as a youth basketball coach. "Rori Harmon is a complete player—she really runs the show from start to finish," said Patricia Lewandowski, head coach of Jersey Village High. "Rori is able to play defense, rebound, hand out assists and score when it's needed."

Harmon has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Texas 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.

Harmon joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Deja Kelly (2019-20, Duncanville High School), Endyia Rogers (2018-19, Bishop Lynch High School), Charli Collier (2017-18, Barbers Hill High School), and Alexis Morris (2016-17, Legacy Christian Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Harmon has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Harmon 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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