

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

CHICAGO (March 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **India Johnston** of **Caravel Academy** is the **2021-22 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 court, 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 March, 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, CyFair 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 senior guard had led the Buccaneers to a 14-6 record and a berth in the state tournament at the time of her selection. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Johnston averaged 21.0 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 3.5 steals through 20 games. A First Team All-State honoree, she was the Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association Player of the Year as a junior.

Johnston has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs and the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware. "India Johnston is a nearly impossible defensive matchup for any team," said Dan Pisani, head coach at Archmere Academy. "She shoots the ball well, she's dynamic off the dribble, and if you help on her too much, she's a great passer. She can beat you in every possible way."

Johnston has maintained a 3.20 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Towson 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 & 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

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

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the court. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Johnston has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Johnston is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.