

FREDERICK DOUGLASS ACADEMY FOR YOUNG MEN STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 4, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Pierre Brooks II of Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Brooks II is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men.

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 Brooks II as Michigan's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Brooks II joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Jabari Parker (2011-12, Simeon Career Academy, Ill.) and Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.).

The 6-foot-6, 218-pound senior wing led the Hurricanes to an 18-5 record and the Division 4 state championship this past season. Brooks averaged 33.1 points, 10.7 rebounds, 2.1 steals, 4.5 assists and 1.4 blocks per game, and he tallied 15 points, 11 rebounds and five assists in the Academy's 47-41 win over Tri-Unity Christian High in the state title game. Also the state's Mr. Basketball winner, Brooks is the first player in the history of the Detroit Public Schools to be named First Team All-City all four years of high school. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,973 points.

A member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association Student Advisory Council, Brooks has volunteered locally with the TRiO Upward Bound Program, which helps prepare low-income students for higher education. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach and mentor. "Pierre Brooks had a big-time senior season," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "A scoring guard, he has a great build and he has the range and confidence to make tough shots look easy. He will beat defenders with his ball skills and an appetite to put points on the board."

Brooks has maintained a weighted 4.13 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Michigan State 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 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.

Brooks II joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Players of the Year Emoni Bates (2019-20 & 2018-19, Lincoln High School), Foster Loyer (2017-18, Clarkston High School), and Isaiah Livers (2016-17, Kalamazoo Central High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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