

FARMVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Terquavion Smith of Farmville Central High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Smith is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Farmville Central 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 Smith as North Carolina'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, Smith 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-3, 170-pound senior guard led the Jaguars to a perfect 15-0 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Smith averaged 29.6 points, 6.0 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 3.2 steals per game. State tournament MVP in both 2019 and 2021, he also led the Jaguars to a co-state championship in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. Also named Player of the Year by the North Carolina Basketball Coaches Association, he played in the Allen Iverson Roundball Classic.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Smith has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Smith has made a name for himself as an elite shooter," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He has a quick release with plenty of range as a floor-spacer who knocks down three-pointers on a regular basis. He will give NC State a major threat behind the arc and will be a big part of opponents' scouting report defense."

Smith has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at North Carolina 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jaden Bradley (2019-20, Cannon School), Wendell Moore (2018-19, Cox Mill High School), and Coby White (2017-18 & 2016-17, Greenfield School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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