

LEGACY EARLY COLLEGE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 4, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Bryce McGowens of Legacy Early College School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McGowens is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Legacy Early College 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 McGowens as South 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, McGowens 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, 180-pound senior guard averaged 21.6 points, 4.7 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.1 blocks per game in leading the Lions, who played a national schedule, to a 14-7 finish and a USA National Prep Classic title. After spending his first three high school years at Wren High School in Piedmont, McGowens transferred to Legacy Early College for his senior season, completing his high school career with 2,341 points. Also the 2020-21 MaxPreps South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year and an Allen Iverson Roundball Classic selection, McGowens is ranked as the No. 24 prospect in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.

A member of the Mount Able Baptist Church, where he sings in the choir, McGowens volunteers locally at the United Way and at a soup kitchen in Anderson. He was also a member of his high school chorus. "One of the best scorers in the Class of 2021, McGowens is smooth, long and bouncy," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He shoots exceptionally well in rhythm and flows from his feet to his follow through. His coachability and scoring prowess will be counted on right away to produce points at Nebraska."

McGowens has maintained a weighted 4.15 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

McGowens joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year P.J. Hall (2019-20, Dorman High School), Josiah James (2018-19, Porter-Gaud), Aaron Nesmith (2017-18, Porter-Gaud), and Jalek Felton (2016-17, Gray Collegiate Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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