

**GRADEY DICK NAMED 2021-22 GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS
BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Boston Celtics Forward-Guard Jayson Tatum Surprises Winner with Honor

BEL AIRE, Kan. [March 22, 2022] – In its 37th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Gradey Dick of Sunrise Christian Academy in Bel Aire, Kan. is the 2021-22 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Dick won the prestigious award for his accomplishments on and off the court, joining an impressive group of former Gatorade National Boys Basketball Players of the Year who have combined for five NBA MVPs awards, 76 All-Star appearances, 14 NBA championships, 27 NBA first round draft picks and three Hall of Famers.

Boston Celtics forward-guard and 2015-2016 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year Jayson Tatum virtually surprised Dick with the news, while his family, coaches and teammates showed up with the trophy at school. Check out a video of the announcement [here](#).

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 Dick as the nation's best high school boys basketball player. The Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others to evaluate candidates, selected Dick from nearly half a million other student-athletes who play boys basketball nationwide.

Competition for the national award was fierce. Dick topped the list of state winners in boys basketball who collectively boast an incredible list of accomplishments, including six returning state Gatorade Players of the Year, 29 with a GPA of 3.5 and above and 31 with signed National Letters of Intent or verbal commitments to play basketball at Division I colleges/universities.

"The team's leading scorer with 17.9 points per game at Sunrise Christian, Gradey is a long and lean knock-down shotmaker with a high basketball IQ and nice positional size," said Paul Biancardi of ESPN Basketball. "More than a one-dimensional player, he will also finish drives, take charges and rebound, all of which helped his team win the NIBC regular-season title. What makes him special is that he combines talent, effort and good character. Kansas has an incoming player who will make an impact both on and off the court."

The state's 2019-20 Gatorade Player of the Year at Wichita Collegiate School, the 6-foot-7, 205-pound senior guard has led the Buffaloes to a 25-1 record and a berth in the Geico Nationals Tournament. Dick averaged 17.9 points, 5.2 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.9 steals per game through 26 games, shooting 46.7 percent from behind the arc and hitting on 51.3 percent of his field goal attempts. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Dick was one of five finalists for the Naismith award. He will represent the United States at the Nike Hoop Summit in April, and he was a member of the gold-medal winning Under-18 U.S. team at the 3-on-3 World Cup last summer.

A member of the Young Life Christian ministry, Dick has volunteered locally at a food pantry and shelter for the homeless in addition to serving as a middle school math tutor twice a week for the past two years. He has also donated his time to the Special Olympics, Sunrise Christian Academy Basketball Camps, the Buddy Hield Basketball Camp and as a guest speaker/guest coach for younger students at school during his lunch period.

Dick has maintained a weighted 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kansas this fall.

"When you look at the stats Gradey Dick has achieved on the court, it's undeniable that he's worthy of joining a long line of past Gatorade Players of the Year," said Gatorade Senior Vice President and General Manager Brett O'Brien. "There is a ton of talent among the nearly half a million student-athletes across the nation who compete in boys basketball, but no one lights it up quite like Dick while also excelling in the classroom and making a difference in his community."

Each year, a selection committee evaluates the nation's top talent to choose one state winner from each of the 50 states as well as Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In all, 608 athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the court. 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. Previous winners include a distinguished list of athletes, such as Peyton Manning, Abby Wambach, Jayson Tatum, Elena Delle Donne and many other sports icons.

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.

PREVIOUS GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS			
YEAR	NAME	HOMETOWN	STATUS
2020-21	Chet Holmgren	Minneapolis, MN	Gonzaga University
2019-20	Emoni Bates	Ypsilanti, MI	University of Memphis
2018-19	James Wiseman	Memphis, TN	Golden State Warriors
2017-18	RJ Barrett	Mississauga, ON, Canada	New York Knicks
2016-17	Michael Porter Jr.	Columbia, MO	Denver Nuggets
2015-16	Jayson Tatum	St. Louis, MO	Boston Celtics
2014-15	Ben Simmons	Melbourne, Australia	Brooklyn Nets
2013-14	Karl-Anthony Towns	Metuchen, NJ	Minnesota Timberwolves
2012-13	Andrew Wiggins	Thornhill, ON, Canada	Golden State Warriors
2011-12	Jabari Parker	Chicago, IL	NBA Free Agent
2010-11	Bradley Beal	St. Louis, MO	Washington Wizards
2009-10	Brandon Knight	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Sioux Falls Skyforce
2008-09	Brandon Knight	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Sioux Falls Skyforce
2007-08	Jrue Holiday	North Hollywood, CA	Milwaukee Bucks
2006-07	Kevin Love	Lake Oswego, OR	Cleveland Cavaliers

2005-06	Greg Oden	Indianapolis, IN	Retired from Miami Heat
2004-05	Greg Oden	Indianapolis, IN	Retired from Miami Heat
2003-04	Dwight Howard	Atlanta, GA	Los Angeles Lakers
2002-03	LeBron James	Akron, OH	Los Angeles Lakers
2001-02	LeBron James	Akron, OH	Los Angeles Lakers
2000-01	Kelvin Torbert	Flint, MI	Retired from French Pro A league
1999-00	Jared Jeffries	Bloomington, IN	Retired from Portland Trail Blazers
1998-99	LaVell Blanchard	Ann Arbor, MI	Retired from French Pro A league
1997-98	Al Harrington	Elizabeth, NJ	Retired from Sydney Kings
1996-97	Baron Davis	Santa Monica, CA	Retired from Delaware 87ers
1995-96	Kobe Bryant	Ardmore, PA	Deceased
1994-95	Stephon Marbury	Brooklyn, NY	Retired from Boston Celtics
1993-94	Felipe López	New York, NY	Retired from Minnesota Timberwolves
1992-93	Randy Livingston	New Orleans, LA	Retired from Idaho Stampede
1991-92	Corliss Williamson	Russellville, AR	Retired from Sacramento Kings
1990-91	Chris Webber	Detroit, MI	Retired from Golden State Warriors
1989-90	Damon Bailey	Bedford, IN	Retired from Cleveland Cavaliers
1988-89	Kenny Anderson	Jamaica, NY	Retired from Los Angeles Clippers
1987-88	Alonzo Mourning	Chesapeake, VA	Retired from Miami Heat
1986-87	LaBradford Smith	Bay City, TX	Retired from Sacramento Kings
1985-86	J.R. Reid	Virginia Beach, VA	Retired from Cleveland Cavaliers

About Gatorade

The Gatorade Company, a division of PepsiCo (NASDAQ: PEP), meets the needs of consumers who participate in sports and fitness, through brands that include Gatorade, Propel, Muscle Milk, and Evolve. The solutions they provide are driven by a deep understanding of the unique occasions and needs across athletic activity. Gatorade, their marquee brand, is underpinned by a 56-year history of studying the best athletes in the world, and sports nutrition research by the Gatorade Sport Science Institute, allowing it to provide scientifically formulated products that meet athletes' needs both on and off the field. For more information and a full list of products, please visit www.gatorade.com.

About PepsiCo

PepsiCo products are enjoyed by consumers more than one billion times a day in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. PepsiCo generated more than \$79 billion in net revenue in 2021, driven by a complementary beverage and convenient foods portfolio that includes Lay's, Doritos, Cheetos, Gatorade, Pepsi-Cola, Mountain Dew, Quaker, and

SodaStream. PepsiCo's product portfolio includes a wide range of enjoyable foods and beverages, including many iconic brands that generate more than \$1 billion each in estimated annual retail sales.

Guiding PepsiCo is our vision to Be the Global Leader in Beverages and Convenient Foods by Winning with PepsiCo Positive (pep+). pep+ is our strategic end-to-end transformation that puts sustainability at the center of how we will create value and growth by operating within planetary boundaries and inspiring positive change for planet and people. For more information, visit www.pepsico.com.

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**SUNRISE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 16, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Gradey Dick** of **Sunrise Christian Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Dick is the second Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sunrise Christian 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 Dick as Kansas' 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 March, Dick 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 state's 2019-20 Gatorade Player of the Year at Wichita Collegiate School, the 6-foot-7, 205-pound senior guard had led the Buffaloes to a 25-1 record and a berth in the Geico Nationals Tournament at the time of his selection. Dick averaged 17.9 points, 5.2 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.9 steals per game through 26 games. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Dick was one of five finalists for the Naismith award. He will represent the United States at the Nike Hoop Summit in April, and he was a member of the gold-medal winning Under-18 U.S. team at the 3-on-3 World Cup last summer.

A member of the Young Life Christian ministry, Dick has volunteered locally at a food pantry and a shelter for the homeless in addition to serving as a middle school math tutor twice a week for the past two years. He has also donated his time to the Special Olympics, Sunrise Christian Academy Basketball Camps, the Buddy Field Basketball Camp and as a guest speaker/guest coach for younger students at school during his lunch period. "Gradey Dick is a lights-out shooter," said Paul Biancardi of ESPN Basketball. "He's also upped his overall game beyond the stats. On and off the court, Dick hasn't had a misstep all season."

Dick has maintained a weighted 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Kansas 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 Dick joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kennedy Chandler (2020-21, Sunrise Christian Academy), Christian Braun (2018-19, Blue Valley Northwest High School), and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl (2017-18, Bishop Miege High School), 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, Dick 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. Dick 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.

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