

MILLENNIUM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® ARIZONA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 26, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **DaRon Holmes of Millennium High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Holmes is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millennium 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 Holmes as Arizona's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Holmes joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-9, 195-pound junior forward led the Tigers to a 24-6 record and the Class 5A state championship game this past season. Holmes averaged 23.5 points, 10.5 rebounds, 3.8 blocks and 3.1 assists per game. An All-Arizona selection, he is the MaxPreps Arizona Player of the Year and the ArizonaVarsity Class 5A Player of the Year.

Holmes has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "DaRon Holmes is special in many ways," said Ben Isai, head coach at Valley Vista High. "He dominates the boards, he can score at will and he has a great basketball IQ."

Holmes has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

Holmes joins Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Players of the Year Nico Mannion (2018-19 & 2017-18, Pinnacle High School), Alex Barcello (2016-17 & 2014-15, Corona del Sol High School) and Mitch Lightfoot (2015-16, Gilbert Christian High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

The 2019-2020 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year announcement has been temporarily postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To ensure the safety of everyone involved, The Gatorade Company will follow the guidance of experts and health officials as it determines the appropriate time to announce this year's winner.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Holmes also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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