

## NORTHHIGH SCHOOLIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 26, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Jaylin Williams of Northhigh Schoolide High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Williams is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from NorthHigh Schoolide 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 Williams as Arkansas' best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Williams 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-10, 230-pound senior center led the Grizzlies to a 20-10 record and the Class 6A semifinals this past season. Williams averaged 18.7 points, 12.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 2.5 blocks per game. A First Team All-State honoree, he was the Class 6A Player of the Year and the Class 6A State Championship MVP as a junior.

Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of flood relief efforts and youth basketball camps. "Jaylin Williams can do it all," said Mike Abrahamson, head coach at Bryant High. "He can post up, shoot, drive, pass, handle the ball and he makes a huge difference in games with his defensive presence. I've never known him to have a game where he didn't play a major factor in the outcome."

Williams has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas this fall.

Williams joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Issac McBride (2018-19, Baptist Prep), Isaiah Joe (2017-18, NorthHigh Schoolide High School), Daniel Gafford (2016-17, El Dorado High School), Malik Monk (2015-16, Bentonville High School) and Kevauhn Allen (2014-15, North Little Rock 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," Williams 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), 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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