

## SUFFIELD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 **Micawber Etienne of Suffield Academy** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Etienne is the second Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Suffield 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 field, distinguishes Etienne as Connecticut's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Etienne 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, 245-pound junior post averaged 15 points, 13 rebounds, four blocks and two assists for the Tigers, who battled to a 10-13 record this past season against an elite schedule. An All-NEPSAC selection in 2019, Etienne is ranked as the nation's No. 59 recruit and the No. 11 center in the Class of 2021 by 247 Sports.

Etienne has donated his time as a peer tutor and has volunteered at youth basketball clinics. "Mac is a really, really talented player," said Shavar Bernier, head coach at Taft School. "A high-major kid who looks and plays the part. He's really grown in terms of his skillset over the last couple years."

Etienne has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school in the fall.

Etienne joins Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tre Mitchell (2018-19, The Woodstock Academy), Jaiden Delaire (2017-18, Loomis Chaffee School), Tremont Waters (2016-17, Notre Dame High School), Matthew Moyer (2015-16, South Kent School) and Steven Enoch (2014-15, St. Thomas More 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," Etienne 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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