

## DOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 **Elijah Allen of Dover High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Allen is the third Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dover 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 Allen as Delaware's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Allen 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-2, 190-pound senior guard led the Senators to a 21-2 record and the state semifinals at the time of his selection. Allen averaged 23.5 points, 6.1 rebounds, 3.8 steals and 3.6 assists through 23 games. A First Team All-State and All-Conference honoree, he was named to the USA TODAY's ALL-USA Delaware First Team as a junior.

A peer mentor in his school, Allen has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. "Elijah Allen has no limitations on the basketball court," said Lamarr Shorts, head coach at Milford High School. "He's wildly skilled, smart with the ball, strong and under control. He's able to finish really well at the basket and can score the basketball seemingly at will."

Allen has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

Allen joins Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jyare Davis, (2018-19, Sanford School), Caleb Matthews (2017-18, Smyrna High School), Kyson Rawls (2016-17, St. Georges Technical High School), Jordan Allen (2015-16, Dover High School) and DeV Vaughn Mallory (2014-15, Polytech 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," Allen 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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