

## NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® IOWA 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 **Bowen Born of Norwalk High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Born is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norwalk 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 Born as Iowa's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Born 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 5-foot-11, 165-pound senior guard had led the Warriors to a 22-3 record and the Class 3A state tournament at the time of his selection. Born averaged 37.4 points, 4.7 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.2 steals through 25 games. The Class 3A Player of the Year, he is a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

A mentor for younger children in the community, Born has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. "I've never coached against anyone with as much relentlessness and toughness as Bowen Born," said Brett Watson, head coach at Indianola High. "He's always in attack mode. We've tried every defense known to man to slow him down and none of them have worked. His skill set is at an elite level. He has unlimited range from the outside and his ability to finish at the rim as a guard is remarkable."

Born has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Northern Iowa this fall.

Born joins Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year D.J. Carton (2018-19, Bettendorf High School), Joe Wieskamp (2017-18 & 2016-17, Muscatine High School), Jordan Bohannon (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), and Spencer Haldeman (2014-15, Western Dubuque 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," Born 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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