

WICHITA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® KANSAS 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 **Gradey Dick of Wichita Collegiate School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Dick is the second Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wichita Collegiate 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 Dick as Kansas' best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Dick 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-6, 180-pound sophomore guard led the Spartans to a 20-3 record and a berth in the Class 3A state tournament quarterfinals at the time of his selection. Dick averaged 20.4 points, 5.0 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.6 steals through 23 games. Named a finalist for the USA Basketball Under-16 National Team at its camp in May, 2019, he twice participated in minicamps for the USA Basketball Men's Junior National Team later in the year.

Dick has volunteered locally on multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer research, and he has donated his time at homeless shelter and food bank and with the Special Olympics. "Gradey is a phenomenal basketball player who is really good at scoring the ball at all three levels," said Josh Shirley, head coach of Rose Hill High. "He is very efficient and fluid in the full court. He makes great reads in transition and is a tough player to stop."

Dick has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school this fall.

Dick joins Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Christian Braun (2018-19, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Jeremiah Robinson-Earl (2017-18, Bishop Miege High School), Mitchell Ballock (2016-17, Eudora High School), Jerrick Harding (2015-16, Wichita Southeast High School), and Dean Wade (2014-15, St. John 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," Dick 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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