

DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 **Hunter Dickinson of DeMatha Catholic High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Dickinson is the sixth Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from DeMatha Catholic 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 Dickinson as Maryland's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Dickinson 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 7-foot-2, 263-pound senior center led the Stags to a 30-3 record and the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tournament championship this past season. Dickinson averaged 18.1 points, 10.3 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.1 blocks per game. The WCAC Player of the Year and a three-time All-WCAC selection, he will play in the Jordan Brand Classic later this month in Chicago.

The DeMatha student body president, Dickinson has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach. "Hunter has great touch around the rim and a great feel for the game," said Glenn Farello, head coach of Paul VI Catholic High. "He's one of the best rim protectors I've ever seen in the WCAC. His passing ability neutralizes the double teams that come his way."

Dickinson has maintained a weighted 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Michigan this fall.

Dickinson joins Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Players of the Year Justin Moore (2018-19, DeMatha Catholic High School), Jalen Smith, (2017-18 & 2016-17, Mount Saint Joseph High School), Isaiah Miles (2015-16, Gwynn Park High School), and Justin Robinson (2014-15, Saint James 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," Dickinson 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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