

PHILLIPS ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Dallion Johnson of Phillips Academy** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Johnson is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Phillips 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 Johnson as Massachusetts’ best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Johnson 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, 175-pound senior guard averaged 22.6 points, 5.8 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.1 steals per game this past season, leading the Big Blue (14-12) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class A Tournament semifinals this past season. A three-time NEPSAC All-Star, he concluded his prep basketball career with 1,600 points.

An avid sculptor, Johnson is also an NAACP Youth Member. He has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer research, and he has donated his time as a youth mentor and basketball coach. “Dallion is a tough competitor who gets better every year,” said Max Gordon, head coach of St. Paul’s School. “He is a high-level shot-maker from outside the 3-point line, but he can also score in the paint. He is also a composed leader with the ball—never selfish, never in a hurry, just poised and ready to do what his team needs to win.”

Johnson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Penn State University this fall.

Johnson joins Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Players of the Year Chris Ledlum (2018-19, Northfield Mount Hermon School), A.J. Reeves (2017-18, Brimmer & May School), Azar Swain (2016-17, The Rivers School), Eric Sellew (2015-16, Concord-Carlisle High School), and Guilien Smith (2014-15, Catholic Memorial 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,” Johnson 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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