

CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® NEVADA 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 **Jaden Hardy of Coronado High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Hardy is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coronado 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 Hardy as Nevada’s best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Hardy 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-5, 195-pound junior guard averaged 30.4 points, 9.1 rebounds and 8.4 assists this past season, leading the Cougars to a 19-8 record and the Class 4A regional semifinals. A player in the Team USA Junior National Program since his sophomore year, Hardy entered the year as a two-time returning All-State selection. Ranked as the No. 5 player in the Class of 2021 by ESPN, Hardy was named 2020 MaxPreps Nevada Player of the Year.

Hardy has volunteered locally as a mentor at David Cox Elementary. He has also donated his time to the National Charity League as well as the Henderson Hope Squad for suicide prevention. “Jaden Hardy is one of the best scorers that I have ever coached against,” said Colin Darfour, head coach at Silverado High. “He’s a nightmare attacking the basket and has NBA range on his 3-pointer. He has a knack for using the pick and roll to his team’s advantage and is competitive on defense as well.”

Hardy has maintained a 3.03 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school in the fall.

Hardy joins Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jalen Hill (2018-19, Clark High School), Jamal Bey (2017-18, Bishop Gorman High School), Troy Brown (2016-17, Centennial High School), Zach Collins (2015-16, Bishop Gorman High School), and Chase Jeter (2014-15, Bishop Gorman 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,” Hardy 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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