

## CANNON SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Jaden Bradley of Cannon School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Bradley is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cannon 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 Bradley as North Carolina's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Bradley 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-3, 180-pound sophomore guard led the Cougars to a 27-6 record and the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association Class 4A state championship this past season. Bradley averaged 23.1 points, 6.4 rebounds, 6.1 assists and 2.9 steals per game. A First Team All-State honoree, he was also the conference Player of the Year and is ranked as the nation's No. 6 recruit in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.

Also a talented musician, Bradley is a member of his school's Athletic Leadership Council and has volunteered locally feeding the needy. "Jaden Bradley is a terrific basketball player," said C.J. Lee, head coach at Wesleyan Christian Academy. "He's a one-man fast break. He simply separates from people with his speed and his leaping ability at the rim. He never allows you to relax."

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

Bradley joins Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Wendell Moore (2018-19, Cox Mill High School), Coby White (2017-18 & 2016-17, Greenfield School), Edrice "Bam" Adebayo (2015-16, High Point Christian Academy), and Dennis Smith Jr. (2014-15, Trinity Christian 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," Bradley 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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