

JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Boden Skunberg of Jamestown High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Skunberg is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jamestown 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 Skunberg as North Dakota's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Skunberg 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, 200-pound senior forward averaged 28.4 points, 11.1 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.6 steals, leading the Blue Jays (20-4) to the Class A state quarterfinals at the time of his selection. Before suffering a spiral fracture to his right pinky in a late-February practice, Skunberg became Jamestown's leading career scorer (1,732 points) and rebounder (622). The 2020 Western Dakota Association Senior Athlete of the Year and a four-year varsity starter, he was a First-Team All-State selection in 2019 while leading the Blue Jays to a 27-0 record and a Class A state title.

Skunberg has volunteered locally with Meals on Wheels and a Special Olympics adult basketball team. He has also donated his time on behalf of the Immanuel Lutheran Church as well as to local food banks. "I've been coaching in this league for 25 years. (Boden) is the best player in the state this year," said Darin Mattern, head coach at Century High. "He has a skill set with no deficiencies and does all the little things on both ends of the floor."

Skunberg has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at North Dakota State University this fall.

Skunberg joins Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Mason Walters (2018-19, Jamestown High School), Joe Pistorius (2017-18, West Fargo High School), Aanan Moody (2016-17 & 2015-16, Dickinson High School) and Carter Kretchman (2014-15, Oak Grove Lutheran 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," Skunberg 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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