

## SHEA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 **Erickson Bans of Shea High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Bans is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shea 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 Bans as Rhode Island's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Bans 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-1, 170-pound senior guard led the Raiders to a 17-8 record and a berth in the Open State Tournament at the time of his selection. Bans averaged 30.1 points and 6.0 assists through 25 games. A three-time All-State selection, Bans was the 2019 Providence Journal Player of the Year. He entered the Open State Tournament with a state-record 2,570 points in his prep basketball career.

An assistant coach for the Shea High Unified basketball team, which promotes social inclusion for children with intellectual disabilities, Bans has also volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Erickson is a scary player to prepare for and to coach against," said Joe Occhi, head coach of Portsmouth High. "He has next-level quickness and unlimited shooting range when he gets going. He has the ability to click for 30-40 points in any game."

Bans has maintained a weighted 3.44 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Bryant University this fall.

Bans joins Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Kolek (2018-19, St. George's School), Brycen Goodine (2017-18, St. Andrew's School), Cole Swider (2016-17, St. Andrew's School), Justin Mazzulla (2015-16, Bishop Hendricken High School) and Corey Daugherty (2014-15, Barrington 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," Bans 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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