

**MCGILL-TOOLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Barry Dunning of McGill-Toolen Catholic High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Dunning is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from McGill-Toolen Catholic 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 Dunning as Alabama's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Dunning joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Jabari Parker (2011-12, Simeon Career Academy, Ill.) and Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.).

The 6-foot-6, 195-pound junior guard and forward averaged 21.5 points and 11.3 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Yellow Jackets (10-15) to the Class 6A state tournament. Dunning also recorded 3.1 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.8 blocks per game. A two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection, Dunning was named to the 2021 Super All-State team by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. He is ranked as the nation's No. 44 recruit in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.com.

Dunning has volunteered locally at the James Seals Community Center and the Ronald McDonald House of Mobile, and he has donated his time as a youth basketball coach. "[Barry] owns an impressive frame and a skill set to match," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "His athleticism, driving ability and mid-range game produces double-doubles. On the defensive end, he utilizes his length and vertical to challenge and block shots."

Dunning has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Dunning joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year JerDarrian Davison (2019-20, The Calhoun School), Trendon Watford (2018-19 & 2017-18, Mountain Brook High School), and John Petty (2016-17, Jemison High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Dunning has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Dunning is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

###