

**BRISTOL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Donovan Clingan of Bristol Central High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Clingan is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bristol Central 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 Clingan as Connecticut'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, Clingan 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 7-foot-1, 265-pound junior center led the Rams to a 15-0 record and a Central Connecticut Conference championship this past season, averaging 27.3 points, 17.2 rebounds, 5.8 blocks, 3.1 assists and 1.2 steals per game. The two-time MaxPreps Connecticut High School Boys Basketball Player of the Year and the 2021 Hearst Connecticut Media Group's GameTimeCT Boys Basketball MVP, Clingan has recorded 1,421 points and 1,002 rebounds in his high school career. Also a three-time Central Connecticut Conference Player of the Year, Clingan is ranked as the No. 44 overall prospect and the No. 7 center in his class by ESPN.

An avid fisherman, Clingan has volunteered locally as a basketball coach at the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol. He has also donated his time as a Bristol Central Rambassador, helping incoming freshmen acclimate to the school. "At 7-foot-1, Clingan possesses outstanding court vision and a willingness to pass from anywhere on the floor," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "His shooting touch is soft, both facing the basket and in the low post. Defensively, he is steady at protecting the rim. His unselfishness is one of his greatest traits, as he finds the open man quickly and accurately."

Clingan has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. 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.

Clingan joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Players of the Year Micawber Etienne (2019-20, Suffield Academy), Tre Mitchell (2018-19, The Woodstock Academy), Jaiden Delaire (2017-18, The Loomis Chaffee School), and Tremont Waters (2016-17, Notre Dame High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Clingan has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Clingan 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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