

**SANFORD SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Nnanna Njoku of Sanford School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Njoku is the fifth Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sanford 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 Njoku as Delaware'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, Njoku 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-9, 240-pound senior center led the Warriors to a 16-2 record and the state championship this past season. Njoku averaged 20.8 points, 8.9 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per game, converting 72.5 percent of his field goal attempts. The Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association Player of the Year, he is a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Njoku has volunteered locally on behalf of the Black Student Union and the Lupus Foundation of America. "Njoku is blessed with a strong frame, balance and girth, all of which allow him to carve out space and control the painted area," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He understands how to make and maintain contact for angles to the rim inside, and has a sweet, face-up jumper with range out to 19 feet. He plays hard and owns secure hands to rebound."

Njoku has maintained a 3.20 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Villanova University 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.

Njoku joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Players of the Year Elijah Allen (2019-20, Dover High School), Jyare Davis (2018-19, Sanford School), Caleb Matthews (2017-18, Smyrna High School), and Kyson Rawls (2016-17, St. Georges Technical High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Njoku has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Njoku 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.

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