

**MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Brody Rowbury of Meridian High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Rowbury is the fifth Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Meridian 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 Rowbury as Idaho'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, Rowbury 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-11, 290-pound senior post player led the Warriors to a 20-1 record and a Class 5A state championship this past season, averaging 17.1 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, converting at a .604 percentage on field goal attempts and a .714 free throw percentage. The 2020-21 MaxPreps Idaho High School Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Rowbury was a four-year varsity letterman and a two-year captain for the Warriors. Ranked by Prep Hoops as the state's No. 1 center in the Class of 2021, he led Meridian to its first state tournament berth since 2003 as a junior and its first state title since 1992 as a senior, with the Warriors going 40-7 in that span.

In addition to volunteering locally with multiple non-profit organizations, Rowbury donates his time to working at youth basketball camps at his school. "Brody's probably one of the most unique players that has come through Idaho based on his size and skillset," said Jon Nettleton, head coach at Mountain View High. "Idaho doesn't produce many 6-10, 6-11 players to begin with, and definitely not ones who can shoot from the perimeter with a soft touch as well as from the free throw line. He's a force to be reckoned with. Not only can he dominate the glass, but he changes the game simply by how teams try to defend him."

Rowbury has maintained a weighted 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Sunrise Christian Academy in Bel Aire, Kansas, as a post-graduate 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.

Rowbury joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Austin Bolt (2019-20, Borah High School), Michael Ure (2018-19, Ririe High School), Jake Pfennigs (2017-18, Post Falls High School), and Kolby Lee (2016-17, Rocky Mountain High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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