

**WAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA 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 Tucker DeVries of Waukee High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year. DeVries is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waukee 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 DeVries as Iowa'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, DeVries 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-7, 185-pound senior guard led the Warriors to a 16-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. DeVries averaged 18.5 points, 6.6 rebounds, 5.6 assists and 2.9 steals per game. Also Iowa's Mr. Basketball, he is also a two-time First Team All-State honoree.

DeVries has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen, community clean-up initiatives and youth basketball camps. "Tucker DeVries brings strength and skill to the game," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "His long-range jumper and craftiness with the ball is what makes him special. More than a scorer, he is an effective playmaker who plays with passion and basketball IQ."

DeVries has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Drake 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.

DeVries joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Bowen Born (2019-20, Norwalk High School), D.J. Carton (2018-19, Bettendorf High School), and Joe Wieskamp (2017-18 & 2016-17, Muscatine High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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