

**SUNRISE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Kennedy Chandler of Sunrise Christian Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Chandler is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sunrise Christian Academy.

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 Chandler as Kansas' 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, Chandler 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, 175-pound senior guard averaged 14.7 points and 4.5 assists per game this past season, leading the Buffaloes (20-4) to the Geico Nationals championship game. Chandler also chipped in 3.7 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game while connecting on 41.3 percent of his 3-point shots. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Chandler was one of five finalists for the Naismith High School Trophy. A transfer student from Briarcrest Christian Academy in Tennessee, he is ranked as the nation's No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.com.

In his hometown of Memphis, Chandler has volunteered collecting old eyeglasses for a center that recycles them for people in need. He has also donated his time on community beautification projects and as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Kennedy is gifted with speed and ball-handling as an elite playmaker," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He pushes the pace and has a knack of creating for others and getting his teammates involved. He navigates the ball screen game with precision and is a much-improved 3-point shooter."

Chandler has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Chandler joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Gradey Dick (2019-20, Wichita Collegiate School), Christian Braun (2018-19, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Jeremiah Robinson-Earl (2017-18, Bishop Miege High School), and Mitchell Ballock (2016-17, Eudora High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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