

**MARANACOOK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Cash McClure of Maranacook Community High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year. McClure is the second Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Maranacook Community 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 McClure as Maine'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, McClure 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-2, 170-pound senior guard led the Black Bears to a 15-0 record and the Class A/B Central Maine championship this past season. McClure averaged 26.7 points, 8.4 rebounds and 7.5 assists per game. Also the Mr. Maine Basketball honoree, he was named an All-State selection and the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

McClure has volunteered locally on behalf of hiking trail preservation efforts and youth basketball programs. "I don't think there was anyone even close to Cash McClure this year," said Tim Bonsant, head coach at Erskine Academy. "He just has the complete package. He can shoot the three, he can go right by you, and he always made his teammates better. He was easily the best defender in our league, too, maybe the best in the state."

McClure has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He will begin a post-graduate year at Kimball Union Academy 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.

McClure joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Players of the Year Bryce Lausier (2019-20, Hampden Academy), Matthew Fleming (2018-19, Bangor High School), and Terion Moss (2017-18 & 2016-17, Portland High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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