

**DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Jordan Hawkins of DeMatha Catholic High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hawkins is the seventh Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from DeMatha Catholic 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 Hawkins as Maryland'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, Hawkins 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-6, 170-pound senior guard led the Stags to an 11-0 record this past season. Hawkins averaged 19.7 points, 11.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists, 2.3 steals and 1.9 blocks per game while connecting on 63.6 percent of his field-goal attempts and 46.4 percent of his 3-point shots. A two-time Washington Post All-Met Honorable Mention selection, he is ranked as the nation's No. 59 recruit in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.com.

Hawkins has volunteered locally as part of food drives to benefit the needy during the pandemic, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his school. "Jordan Hawkins is a high flyer who possesses a deep and dangerous 3-point shot," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He is a battle-tested guard who has the ability to put up big numbers and make it look easy at times. He is never afraid of a challenge."

Hawkins 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 Connecticut 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.

Hawkins joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Players of the Year Hunter Dickinson (2019-20, DeMatha Catholic High School), Justin Moore (2018-19, DeMatha Catholic High School), and Jalen Smith (2017-18 & 2016-17, Mount Saint Joseph High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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