

**MILLARD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Hunter Sallis of Millard North High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Sallis is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard North 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 Sallis as Nebraska'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, Sallis 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-5, 170-pound senior guard led the Mustangs to a 27-2 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Sallis averaged 22.2 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.4 steals per game, while shooting 57.7 percent from the floor. Also a McDonald's All-American, Sallis was named co-captain of both the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska Team and the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State Team. He played in the Allen Iverson Roundball Classic and is ranked as the nation's No. 7 prospect in the Class of 2021 by 247Sports.

Sallis has volunteered locally on behalf of Toys for Tots, a coat drive for the needy and youth basketball programs. "Sallis owns notable physical measurables, as he stands 6-foot-5 as a combination guard owns a 6-foot-10 wingspan," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He's a high-end fast break finisher with a pull-up jumper in the half court. He's a triple-threat player—score, drive and pass—who plays defense with effort and awareness."

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

Sallis joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Chucky Hepburn (2019-20, Bellevue West High School), Akol Arop (2018-19, Creighton Prep), Shereef Mitchell (2017-18, Burke High School), and Teddy Allen (2016-17, Boys Town High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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