

**CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Jaden Hardy of Coronado High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hardy is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coronado 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 Hardy as Nevada'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, Hardy 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-5, 195-pound senior guard averaged 30.4 points, 9.1 rebounds and 8.4 assists in leading the Cougars to a 19-8 record and the Class 4A regional semifinals as a junior in 2020. A participant in the Team USA Junior National Program since his sophomore year, Hardy graduates as a two-time All-State selection who passed the 2,000 career points barrier during the 2020 campaign. Ranked as the No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2021 by ESPN, Hardy was named 2020 MaxPreps Nevada Player of the Year after a season in which he set the school record for points in a game with 62 against San Diego's Cathedral Catholic High.

Hardy has volunteered locally as a mentor at David Cox Elementary. He has also donated his time to the National Charity League as well as the Henderson Hope Squad for suicide prevention. "Jaden Hardy was the best offensive player in the senior class," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "A deep, long-range shooter as well as a master in the mid-range. He makes tough shots look easy and his aggressive scoring nature elicits fouls on opponents."

Hardy has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a professional contract to play for the California-based Ignite in the NBA G League and would be eligible for the 2022 NBA Draft.

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.

Two-time winner Hardy joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jalen Hill (2018-19, Clark High School), Jamal Bey (2017-18, Bishop Gorman High School), and Troy Brown (2016-17, Centennial High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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