

**NEW HAMPTON SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Alex Karaban of New Hampton School as its 2020-21 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Karaban is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from New Hampton 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 Karaban as New Hampshire'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, Karaban 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-8, 220-pound junior forward led the Huskies to an 11-3 record this past season. Karaban averaged 25.8 points, 8.7 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.9 blocks per game while connecting on 60.3 percent of his field-goal attempts. He also led the Huskies to the 2020 New England Prep School Athletic Council Class AAA tournament title and he was named MVP of the championship game. He is ranked as the nation's No. 48 recruit in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.com.

A proctor in his dorm at New Hampton, Karaban has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Alex Karaban exudes basketball fundamentals such as fakes, footwork and shooting ability beyond the arc," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He keeps defenders guessing with the ball in his hands as he is a very good decision maker. He is extremely productive everywhere on the court but especially on the glass."

Karaban has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Karaban joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Geronimo (2019-20, St. Paul's School), Arie Breakfield (2018-19, Spaulding High School), Max Bonney-Liles (2017-18, Alvirne High School), and Joey Glynn (2016-17, Portsmouth High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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