

**BUCHTEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Chris Livingston of Buchtel High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Livingston is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Buchtel 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 Livingston as Ohio'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, Livingston 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-7, 210-pound junior forward and guard led the Griffins to an 18-5 record and the Division 2 state quarterfinals this past season. Livingston averaged 31.1 points, 15.8 rebounds, 6.5 assists, 4.7 steals and 4.3 blocks per game. A First Team All-State selection, he was also the Northeast Ohio Division 2 Player of the Year and a Third Team MaxPreps All-American selection. He led the USA Men's Junior National Team to a gold medal at the 2019 FIBA Americas U16 Championship and is ranked as the nation's No. 3 prospect in the Class of 2022 by Rivals.com.

Livingston has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Chris Livingston is one of the most explosive and powerful athletes in the junior class," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "Physically imposing at the small forward position, he loves to play downhill and attack the rim. What makes him a standout at this early age is his ability to take a hit with a knack for finishing in traffic. He's active on the boards, he's an improving shooter and he's a future lock-down defender on the perimeter."

Livingston has maintained a 3.19 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.

Livingston joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Players of the Year VonCameron Davis (2019-20, Walnut Ridge High School), Ben Roderick (2018-19, Olentangy Liberty High School), Dane Goodwin (2017-18, Upper Arlington High School), and Kaleb Wesson (2016-17, Westerville South High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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