

**WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Stevie Mitchell of Wilson High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Mitchell is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilson 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 Mitchell as Pennsylvania'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, Mitchell 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-2, 185-pound senior guard led the Bulldogs to a 20-2 record and the district finals this past season. Mitchell averaged 25.6 points, 7.3 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game, while shooting 55.7 percent from the field. Also Pennsylvania's Mr. Basketball, he is a First Team All-State honoree and was twice named Berks Conference Player of the Year.

Mitchell has served as an altar boy in his church and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth basketball programs. "Mitchell is a clever and skilled point guard headed to Marquette," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "His ball-handling, footwork and pace make him hard to defend. He demonstrates a strong blend of offensive facilitator and a scoring mentality with natural instincts to get buckets."

Mitchell has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Marquette 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.

Mitchell joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Ethan Morton (2019-20, Butler Area Senior High School), Oscar Tshiebwe (2018-19, Kennedy Catholic High School), Robby Carmody (2017-18, Mars Area High School), and Mohamed Bamba (2016-17, Westtown School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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