

**ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Daimion Collins of Atlanta High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Collins is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Atlanta 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 Collins as Texas' 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, Collins 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-10, 192-pound senior guard/forward averaged 30.5 points, 13.6 rebounds, 8.7 blocks and 3.0 assists per game this past season, leading the Rabbits (19-5) to the Conference 3A regional semifinals. Ranked as the nation's No. 17 recruit in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.com, Collins is a McDonald's All-American Game selection and a three-time District MVP. He concluded his prep basketball career with 2,533 points.

A member of the 4-H Club, Collins has volunteered locally with Driven to Change, a non-profit organization that mentors children on leadership, academic and career development. "Daimion Collins is an exceptional shot-blocker who is usually first to the rim on missed shots—displaying length, explosiveness and a quick second jump," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He makes himself an excellent target to finish drop-off passes by rolling to the rim with dependable hands and explosive athleticism."

Collins has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Greg Brown III (2019-20, Vandegrift High School), R.J. Hampton (2018-19, Little Elm High School), Quentin Grimes (2017-18, The Woodlands College Park High School), and Marcus Garrett (2016-17, Skyline High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Collins has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Collins 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 [www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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