

**WASATCH ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Nolan Hickman of Wasatch Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hickman is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wasatch Academy.

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 Hickman as Utah'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, Hickman 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-3, 195-pound senior guard led the Tigers to an 18-7 record and a berth in the GEICO Nationals this past season. Hickman averaged 16.0 points, 5.4 assists, 3.9 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game. A McDonald's All-American, he also played in the Allen Iverson Roundball Classic and is ranked as the nation's No. 20 prospect in the Class of 2021 by Rivals.com.

Hickman started the GiveBack Foundation during the pandemic, collecting winter clothes for the needy and holding virtual youth basketball camps. "Hickman is a true combination guard who is a leader by example," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "He's a versatile scorer with the passing instincts to deliver wins. A mature, high-level competitor who is also a great teammate, he exhibits positive body language all game long."

Hickman has maintained a 3.22 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Gonzaga 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.

Hickman joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dallin Hall (2019-20, Fremont High School), Rylan Jones (2018-19 & 2017-18, Olympus High School), and Jaxon Brenchley (2016-17, Ridgeline High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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