

**RICE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Michel Ndayishimiye of Rice Memorial High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Ndayishimiye is the eight Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rice Memorial 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 Ndayishimiye as Vermont'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, Ndayishimiye 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 5-foot-10, 170-pound senior guard led the Green Knights to a 10-0 record and the Division 1 state championship this past season. Ndayishimiye averaged 29.6 points, 5.9 rebounds and 5.8 assists per game. A three-time First Team All-State selection, he was named Mr. Basketball by the Burlington Free Press each of the past two years.

Ndayishimiye has volunteered locally on behalf of Boys and Girls Club of Burlington. "Michel is the most dynamic scorer I've seen in Vermont high school basketball," said Michael Osborne, head coach at Champlain Valley Union High. "He's explosive, elusive and creative with the ball in his hands, and he has amazing body control around the rim. He's very good as a pure shooter too, with range legitimately out to 25 feet."

Ndayishimiye has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Vermont 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.

Ndayishimiye joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Players of the Year Logan Wendell (2019-20, St. Johnsbury Academy), Jamison Evans (2018-19, Rutland High School), Kam Farris (2017-18, Rice Memorial High School), and Calvin Carter (2016-17, Enosburg Falls High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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