

**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 30, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Lamar Washington of Jefferson High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Washington is the sixth Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jefferson 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 Washington as Oregon's best high school boys basketball player. Washington 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-4, 205-pound junior guard led the Democrats to a 14-3 record this past season, averaging 31.2 points, 10.3 rebounds, 5.1 assists and 2.2 steals per game. The state's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2022 according to Prep Hoops, Washington was a First-Team Portland Interscholastic League selection in 2020. He scored more than 40 points five times this past season and over 50 points once.

A top football prospect as well, Washington is ranked as the nation's No. 31 linebacker in the Class of 2022 by 247 Sports. A participant in Self Enhancement, Inc., an organization dedicated to guiding underserved youth to realize their full potential, he has also volunteered locally through community cleanup projects. "Lamar is a very well-rounded young man, a natural leader in his school and community," said Pat Strickland, head coach at Jefferson High. "He's very disciplined with his work ethic and is committed to the same effort in the classroom."

Washington has maintained a 3.54 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.

Washington joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year Ben Gregg (2019-20, Clackamas High School), Aaron Deloney (2018-19, Grant High School), Kamaka Hepa (2017-18, Jefferson High School), and Zach Reichle (2016-17, Wilsonville High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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