

OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 30, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jackson Grant of Olympia High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Grant is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olympia 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 Grant as Washington's best high school boys basketball player. Grant 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, 220-pound senior center led the Bears to a 14-2 record and the South Puget Sound League championship this past season. Grant averaged 22.9 points, 11.2 rebounds and 3.0 blocks per game, converting 65.6 percent of his field goal attempts. A McDonald's All-American, he concluded his prep career as the leading scorer in school history and was also named Conference Player of the Year. He is ranked as the nation's No. 42 prospect in the Class of 2021 by ESPN.

Grant has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball clinics, the Thurston County Food Bank and All Kids Win, which provides backpacks of food to needy teens on weekends. "Jackson Grant owns a terrific combination of size and skill that can stretch the floor," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN National Recruiting Director. "His overall strength has increased, which enhances his post-up game, and he's now a legitimate threat both inside and out. He's a McDonald's All-American whose best basketball is still down the road."

Grant has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Grant joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Players of the Year Paolo Banchemo (2019-20, O'Dea High School), Jaden McDaniels (2018-19, Federal Way High School), Brock Ravet (2017-18, Kittitas Secondary School), and Michael Porter Jr. (2016-17, Nathan Hale High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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