

**MCGILL-TOOLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 16, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Barry Dunning** of **McGill-Toolen Catholic High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Dunning is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from McGill-Toolen Catholic 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 court, distinguishes Dunning as Alabama'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 March, Dunning 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-6, 210-pound senior guard and forward averaged 25.3 points and 12.9 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Yellow Jackets (30-5) to the Class 6A state semifinals. Dunning also compiled 3.3 steals, 2.6 assists and 1.7 blocks per game while shooting 43.7 percent from behind the arc. A two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection, he is ranked as the nation's No. 76 recruit in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.com.

Dunning has launched a non-profit that focuses on the mental health of athletes. He has volunteered locally at the James Seals Community Center and the Ronald McDonald House in Mobile, and he has donated his time as a youth basketball coach. "Barry was very good this season," said Daniel Forshier, head coach of Blount High School. "He got even better and really showed his dominance the deeper McGill got into area play and during their deep playoff run."

Dunning has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Dunning joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year JerDarrian Davison (2019-20, The Calhoun School), and Trendon Watford (2018-19 & 2017-18, Mountain Brook High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the court. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Dunning has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Dunning is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

###