

**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 16, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jared McCain** of **Centennial High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McCain is the first Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 McCain as California'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, McCain 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, 200-pound junior guard had led the Huskies to a 32-1 record, a No. 2 national ranking by MaxPreps and a berth in the Open Division state championship game at the time of his selection. McCain averaged 16.9 points, 4.7 rebounds and 4.0 assists through 33 games. He was shooting 40.6 percent on 3-pointers and 89.4 percent from the foul line. A three-time All-League performer, he was named to the Damien Classic All-Tournament team and is ranked as the nation's No. 22 prospect in the Class of 2023 by ESPN.

McCain has volunteered locally on behalf of a school sports program for special needs students. "McCain is one of the best outside shooters in the high school game, regardless of class," Paul Biancardi of ESPN Basketball. "He utilizes shot fakes and pass fakes to create space for himself and understands the art of cutting off screens to get open. He's very goal- and task-oriented in his approach to the game."

McCain has maintained a 4.0 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

McCain joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Malik Thomas (2020-21, Damien High School), Evan Mobley (2019-20 & 2018-19, Rancho Christian High School), and David Singleton (2017-18, Bishop Montgomery 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, McCain 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. McCain 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).