

**BRISTOL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 **Donovan Clingan** of **Bristol Central High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Clingan is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bristol Central 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 Clingan as Connecticut'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, Clingan 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 7-foot-2, 260-pound senior had led the Rams to a 25-0 record, the No. 1 seed in the Division II state tournament and a berth in the state semifinals at the time of his selection. Clingan averaged 29.9 points, 18.1 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 6.12 blocks through 25 games. Ranked as the nation's No. 51 recruit in the Class of 2022 by ESPN, Clingan amassed 52 points and 31 rebounds in a single game this season in addition to putting up a 45-point, 28-rebound performance in the Central Connecticut Conference championship game.

Clingan has volunteered locally at basketball clinics with the Bristol Boys & Girls Club and on behalf of the Cambridge Park Youth Sports Clinic. He has also donated his time as a Bristol Central "Rambassador," helping incoming freshmen acclimate to high school. "Clingan is the most dominant player that I have seen in the last 20-plus years of my involvement as a Connecticut high school player, official and coach," said Ryan Raponey, Lewis Mills High School head coach. "He completely changes the game when you play against Bristol Central. He runs the floor, he can step outside the lane offensively and completely dominates the game defensively."

Clingan has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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 Clingan joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Players of the Year Micawber Etienne (2019-20, Suffield Academy), Tre Mitchell (2018-19, The Woodstock Academy), and Jaiden Delaire (2017-18, Loomis Chaffee 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, Clingan 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. Clingan 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).

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