

**WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Darren Buchanan** of **Woodrow Wilson High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Buchanan is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodrow Wilson 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 Buchanan as District of Columbia'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, Buchanan 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-7, 225-pound senior forward led the Tigers to a 27-5 record and the DCIAA Class AA tournament title this past season. Buchanan averaged 17.5 points, 10.6 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.0 steals and 1.2 blocks per game. The Tigers lost in the DCSAA Class AA tournament championship game on a last-second putback. A two-time DCIAA Player of the Year, Buchanan concluded his prep basketball career with 1,018 points.

Buchanan has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach, and he has donated his time by feeding needy families during the Christmas season. "Buchanan has been tremendous for Wilson," said Ali Foster, head coach of McKinley Technology High School. "I've watched him since middle school, and his development on and off the court has been outstanding."

Buchanan has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Buchanan joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Quincy Allen (2020-21, Maret School), Terrance Williams (2019-20, Gonzaga College High School), Casey Morsell (2018-19, St. John's College High School), and Myles Dread (2017-18, Gonzaga College 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, Buchanan 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. Buchanan 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.

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