

**YORKVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Jaden Schutt** of **Yorkville Christian High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Schutt is the first Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Yorkville Christian 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 Schutt as Illinois' 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, Schutt 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-6, 185-pound senior guard had led the Mustangs to a 24-13 record and a berth in the Class 1A state championship game at the time of his selection. Schutt averaged 25.0 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.5 steals per game through 37 games. A two-time Associated Press All-State selection, Schutt was the 2021 Kendall Record and Beacon News Player of the Year. He entered the state title game with 2,299 points in his prep basketball career.

Schutt has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children, Operation Christmas Child and the Mooseheart Child City & School, a residential childcare facility for those in need. He has also donated his time to the Yorkville Parks and Rec Department and as a youth basketball coach. "Jaden does everything on the court," said Brian Johnson, head coach of West Aurora High School. "He defends all positions, is an excellent rebounder, plays well in the gaps and is the best shooter in Illinois. His shot-making ability is next to none."

Schutt has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke University 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.

Schutt joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Players of the Year Max Christie (2020-21, Rolling Meadows High School), Adam Miller (2019-20 & 2018-19, Morgan Park High School), and E.J. Liddell (2017-18, Belleville West 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, Schutt 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. Schutt 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).