

**NOKOMIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Cooper Flagg** of **Nokomis Regional High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Flagg is the first Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Nokomis Regional 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 Flagg as Maine'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, Flagg 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-8, 195-pound freshman forward led the Warriors to a 21-1 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Flagg averaged 20.5 points, 10.0 rebounds, 6.2 assists, 3.7 steals and 3.7 blocks per game. The Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Player of the Year, he recorded game-highs of 22 points and 16 rebounds in the state championship victory.

Flagg has raised funds to defray the cost of cancer treatments for a family friend and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Cooper Flagg is a once-in-a-generation talent here in Maine," said Jason Pellerin, head coach at Lawrence High School. "He's the best overall player—offensively and defensively—that I've ever coached against. His basketball IQ and maturity for a 15-year-old are truly something special."

Flagg has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his sophomore 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.

Flagg joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Players of the Year Cash McClure (2020-21, Maranacook Community High School), Bryce Lausier (2019-20, Hampden Academy), Matthew Fleming (2018-19, Bangor High School), and Terion Moss (2017-18, Portland 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, Flagg 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. Flagg 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).