

**WORCESTER ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **TJ Power** of **Worcester Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Power is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Worcester Academy.

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 Power as Massachusetts' 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, Power 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-9, 210-pound junior forward led the Hilltoppers to a 23-7 record and the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class AA tournament championship this past season. Power averaged 13.1 points, 7.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.5 steals per game, and he tallied 26 points and 11 boards in Worcester's 85-83 victory over Bradford Christian Academy in the Class AA title game, earning tournament MVP honors. A transfer from St. John's High in Shrewsbury, he is ranked as the nation's No. 49 recruit in the Class of 2023 by ESPN.com.

Power has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit A Shot for Life, a non-profit that funds health and cancer research initiatives. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach. "I love TJ's versatility and his willingness to take what the defense gives him," said James Cormier, head coach of Cushing Academy. "He was a main focus for us (when we played them) and only had seven points in the game, but he impacted their win in so many ways because of his other abilities."

Power has maintained an A average 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.

Power joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kyle Filipowski (2020-21, Wilbraham & Monson Academy), Dallion Johnson (2019-20, Phillips Academy), Chris Ledlum (2018-19, Northfield Mount Hermon School) and A.J. Reeves (2017-18, Brimmer & May 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, Power 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. Power 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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