

**GRAND ISLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Isaac Traudt** of **Grand Island Senior High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Traudt is the third Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grand Island Senior 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 Traudt as Nebraska'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, Traudt 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, 225-pound senior forward led the Islanders (10-13) to the district semifinals this past season. Traudt averaged 23.6 points, 8.5 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game. An Omaha World-Herald First Team All-Nebraska selection and Lincoln Journal Star First Team Super-State honoree, he's ranked as the nation's No. 46 prospect in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Traudt has volunteered locally on behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and youth basketball camps. "Traudt is one of the more highly skilled forwards in the senior class, with athletic bounce," said Paul Biancardi of ESPN Basketball. "He is special because he can function as a triple-threat player who can contribute as a shooter, passer and driver with size."

Traudt has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Traudt joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Hunter Sallis (2020-21, Millard North High School), Chucky Hepburn (2019-20, Bellevue West High School), Akol Arop (2018-19, Creighton Preparatory), and Shereef Mitchell (2017-18, Burke 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, Traudt 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. Traudt 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).