

**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Darrion Williams** of **Bishop Gorman High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Williams is the eleventh Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Williams as Nevada'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, Williams 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, 215-pound senior forward led the Gaels to a 30-1 record and a berth in the Class 5A state championship game, where he had 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists in a 63-62, double-overtime loss to Liberty. The Nevada Basketball Coaches Association co-Player of the Year averaged 18 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals per game.

Williams has volunteered locally with his mother as part of Special Olympics activities. He also has donated his shoes and clothing to local underprivileged youth. "Williams is an excellent shooter and good finisher, and he can really stretch the floor," said Paul DeSantis, head coach of Foothill High School. "He's a very unselfish player, too and will always make the right play. He can guard (any position on the floor) and he hit a ton of big shots for them all year."

Williams has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Nevada 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jaden Hardy (2020-21 & 2019-20, Coronado High School), Jalen Hill (2018-19, Clark High School) and Jamal Bey (2017-18, Bishop Gorman 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, Williams 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. Williams 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).

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