

**ENDERLIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Joe Hurlburt** of **Enderlin High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Hurlburt is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Enderlin 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 Hurlburt as North Dakota'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, Hurlburt 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-11, 220-pound senior forward led the Eagles to a 17-6 record and the Class B Region 1 title game. Hurlburt averaged 25.5 points, 14.9 rebounds, 5 assists, 2.1 blocks and 1.7 steals on the season and, in so doing, reached 2,188 points for his career and became the leading rebounder in North Dakota boys basketball history with 1,475.

Hurlburt has volunteered locally with Enderlin's elementary basketball program, Eagle Buddies. He also has donated his time to team fundraisers and multiple community service events. "Joe Hurlburt is one of the most skilled bigs to come out of North Dakota in a while," said Kindred High School head coach Brad Woehl. "He has the ability to go inside out. His size creates matchup problems for many teams. I believe he has gotten more explosive off the dribble this year and improved that part of his game."

Hurlburt has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Colorado 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.

Two-time winner Hurlburt joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Boden Skunberg (2019-20, Jamestown High School), Mason Walters (2018-19, Jamestown High School), and Joe Pistorius (2017-18, West Fargo 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, Hurlburt 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. Hurlburt 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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