

**WOODWARD CAREER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Paul McMillan IV** of **Woodward Career Technical High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McMillan IV is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodward Career Technical 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 McMillan IV as Ohio’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, McMillan IV 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-2, 175-pound senior guard had led the Bulldogs to a 22-3 record and the Division 2 regional semifinals at the time of his selection. McMillan averaged 27.3 points, 5.2 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 2.2 steals through 25 games. The Southwest Ohio Division 2 Player of the Year, he is a two-time First Team All-Ohio selection and the three-time Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

A member of his school’s Student Athletic Leadership Team, McMillan has served as a mentor for middle school students and has volunteered locally on behalf of toy- and food-donation drives. “McMillan demonstrates high-end speed and quickness and he can flat out get buckets,” said Paul Biancardi of ESPN Basketball. “He’s a determined driver with a dependable 3-point shot, and he does a good job of rebounding from his position and coming up with steals.”

McMillan has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

McMillan IV joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Players of the Year Chris Livingston (2020-21, John R. Buchtel Community Learning Center), VonCameron Davis (2019-20, Walnut Ridge High School), Ben Roderick (2018-19, Olentangy Liberty High School), and Dane Goodwin (2017-18, Upper Arlington 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, McMillan IV 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. McMillan IV 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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