

**WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Jackson Shelstad** of **West Linn High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Shelstad is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn 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 Shelstad as Oregon'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, Shelstad 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, 175-pound junior guard led the Lions to a 21-3 record and the semifinals of the 6A state tournament at the time of his selection. Shelstad averaged 27 points, 5.2 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 4.3 steals per game through 23 games. Entering the final four, he had scored 30 or more in 14 games this season and scored 40 or more three times.

Shelstad has volunteered locally as a coach and referee for youth sports camps, including the Lion Hoop Camp and i9 Sports basketball and flag football camps, which focus on a mission of helping youth succeed in life through sport. He also has donated his time fundraising for the Children's Cancer Association in support of the Ellie's Army Foundation, which provides financial assistance to children with life-threatening illnesses. "He is by far the best player in the state—as fast of a kid as I've seen with the ball in my 24 years as a head coach," said Shawn Alderman, head coach at Tigard High School. "He can take over games, but also keeps everyone involved. The thing I appreciate the most is he never gets too high or too low—he just plays the game. No trash-talking, no pouting about refs' missed calls. He just keeps playing."

Shelstad has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oregon beginning in the fall of 2023.

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.

Shelstad joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year Lamar Washington (2020-21, Jefferson High School), Ben Gregg (2019-20, Clackamas High School), Aaron Deloney (2018-19, Grant High School), and Kamaka Hepa (2017-18, Jefferson 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, Shelstad 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. Shelstad 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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