

**WESTTOWN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Dereck Lively** of **Westtown School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Lively is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westtown 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 Lively as Pennsylvania'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, Lively 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 7-foot-2, 235-pound senior center led the Moose to a 31-7 record and the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association state championship this past season. Lively averaged 14.0 points, 14.0 rebounds and 4.5 blocks per game. A McDonald's All-American, he is a First Team All-State honoree and one of five national finalists for the Naismith award. Lively was ranked as the nation's No. 1 prospect in the Class of 2022 by ESPN.

Lively has volunteered locally with his school's Black Student Union. "Lively is a game-changer on the defensive end as a shot-blocker in addition to being an exciting lob-catcher with soft hands and great bounce at the rim," said Paul Biancardi of ESPN Basketball. "He's honed his 3-point shot to where he's a legitimate threat behind the arc and he's also a terrific passer as a big man."

Lively has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke University 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.

Lively joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Stevie Mitchell (2020-21, Wilson High School), Ethan Morton (2019-20, Butler Area Senior High School), Oscar Tshiebwe (2018-19, Kennedy Catholic High School), and Robby Carmody (2017-18, Mars Area 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, Lively 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. Lively 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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