

**ROCKY HILL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Denzel Correia** of **Rocky Hill Country Day School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Correia is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Hill Country Day 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 Correia as Rhode Island'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, Correia 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-3, 165-pound senior guard averaged 21.5 points and 7.6 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Mariners (18-5) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class D tournament championship game. The 2022 Southeastern New England Conference Player of the Year, Correia is a two-time First Team All-SENE selection. He scored 1,082 points in his three years at Rocky Hill.

Correia developed and executed leadership activities for middle school students at Rocky Hill and he has volunteered locally at the Vincent Brown Community Center in Providence as a youth basketball coach and mentor. "Denzel makes other kids better and he is the heart and soul of that team," said Mike Hart, head coach of St. Andrew's School. "He can score, distribute and defend at a very high level."

Correia has maintained a 3.24 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.

Correia joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matt Constant (2020-21, St. Andrew's School), Erickson Bans (2019-20, Charles E. Shea High School), Tyler Kolek (2018-19, St. George's School), and Brycen Goodine (2017-18, St. Andrew's 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, Correia 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. Correia 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.