

**RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Gregory "GG" Jackson** of **Ridge View High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Jackson is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ridge View 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 Jackson as South Carolina'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, Jackson 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-9, 210-pound junior forward led the Blazers to a 20-11 record and the Class 5A state championship while averaging 22.1 points, 10.9 rebounds, 2.25 blocks, 1 steal and 1.25 assists per game. The Class 5A Player of the Year, he finished with 14 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks in Ridge View's 65-57 win over Fort Dorchester in the title game.

Jackson has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through his church. He also has donated his time as a member of Ridge View's SMOOTH Movement, a program in which male students seek to provide a positive image and stress the importance of community service for Ridge View's younger male students. "What makes GG dangerous on the court is his competitive nature," said Ezekiel Washington Jr., the Blythewood High School head coach. "He embraces competition and he plays with a lot of pride. GG's skill set allows him to play inside and on the perimeter."

Jackson has maintained a B average in the classroom and will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Jackson joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Bryce McGowens (2020-21, Legacy Early College School), P.J. Hall (2019-20, Dorman High School), Josiah James (2018-19, Porter-Gaud School), and Aaron Nesmith (2017-18, Porter-Gaud 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, Jackson 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. Jackson 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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