

**DE SMET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Kalen Garry of De Smet High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Garry is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from De Smet 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 Garry as South Dakota'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, Garry 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, 195-pound senior guard had led the Bulldogs to a 22-1 record and the quarterfinals of the Class B state tournament at the time of his selection. Garry averaged 20.3 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.4 steals through 23 games. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, he was a member of the Argus Leader First Five and has twice been named Class B Player of the Year.

Also a football standout and a talented musician, Garry has served as an altar boy at his church and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Kalen Garry is a great player," said Andy Hansen, head coach for Estelline/Hendricks High School. "He's so efficient in how he scores, and he's not afraid to pass the ball and make the people around him better. Defensively, he's very intense and he has the mindset that no one is going to score on him."

Garry has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at South Dakota State 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.

Garry joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matthew Mors Matthew Mors (2020-19, 2019-20, & 2018-19, Yankton High School), and A.J. Plitzuweit (2017-18, Vermillion 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, Garry 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. Garry 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.

###