

**RICHARDSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 16, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Cason Wallace** of **Richardson High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Wallace is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Richardson 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 Wallace as Texas' 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, Wallace 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-4, 185-pound senior guard averaged 19.9 points, 7.4 rebounds and 6.1 assists per game this past season, leading the Eagles (32-2) to the Conference 6A regional quarterfinals. He also averaged 2.4 steals and 1.5 blocks. Ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2022 by Rivals.com, Wallace is a McDonald's All-American selection and was a First Team All-State honoree as a junior.

A member of the Student Athlete Leadership Team at Richardson High School, Wallace has volunteered locally both as a youth tutor and as a youth basketball coach and trainer. "Cason is the type of player you dream about coaching," said Kevin Lawson, head coach of Richardson High School. "He is the best rebounder, scorer, defender and leader on the floor in every game he plays. He makes his teammates better and he's just a winner."

Wallace has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Wallace joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Daimion Collins (2020-21, Atlanta High School), Greg Brown III (2019-20, Vandegrift High School), R.J. Hampton (2018-19, Little Elm High School), and Quentin Grimes (2017-18, The Woodlands College Park 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, Wallace 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. Wallace 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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