

**MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Jonah Cattaneo** of **Montpelier High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Cattaneo is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Montpelier 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 Cattaneo as Vermont'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, Cattaneo 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, 165-pound senior guard had led the Solons to a 22-1 record and a berth in the Division 2 state championship game at the time of his selection. Cattaneo averaged 23.5 points, 3.7 assists, 3.4 rebounds and 2.4 steals through 23 games. A Burlington Free Press All-State honoree, he was also an All-Metro selection as a junior and the Capital Division Player of the Year as a sophomore.

Cattaneo has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Jonah Cattaneo can fill it up in a hurry," said Jesse Willard, head coach at Spaulding High School. "He's incredibly shifty, very quick and handles the ball really well. He can attack the rim or pull up from 25 feet, which makes him incredibly hard to defend."

Cattaneo has maintained a 3.64 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.

Cattaneo joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Players of the Year Michel Ndayishimiye (2020-21, Rice Memorial High School), Logan Wendell (2019-20, St. Johnsbury Academy), Jamison Evans (2018-19, Rutland High School), and Kam Farris (2017-18, Rice Memorial 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, Cattaneo 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. Cattaneo 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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