

**KAMIAKIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Tyler Bilodeau** of **Kamiakin High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Bilodeau is the second Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamiakin 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 Bilodeau as Washington'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, Bilodeau 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-8, 215-pound senior forward led the Braves to a 22-5 record and fourth place in the Class 4A state tournament. Bilodeau averaged 22.7 points, 10.3 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.3 blocks per game. Washington's Mr. Basketball, he was also named Mid-Columbia Conference Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year.

A devoted member of his church community, Bilodeau has volunteered locally on behalf of the Second Harvest Food Bank, his school's Buddy Club and youth sports programs. "Tyler Bilodeau is the real deal," said Terry Watson, head coach at Pasco High School. "He can score and defend all over the court and his basketball IQ is off the charts. He's a complete player who makes everyone around him better."

Bilodeau has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Oregon 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.

Bilodeau joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jackson Grant (2020-21, Olympia High School), Paolo Banchemo (2019-20, O'Dea High School), Jaden McDaniels (2018-19, Federal Way High School), and Brock Ravet (2017-18, Kittitas Secondary 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, Bilodeau 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. Bilodeau 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.