

**TOWER HILL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 15, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Dean Shepherd** of **Tower Hill School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Shepherd is the second Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tower Hill 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 Shepherd as Delaware’s best high school boys basketball player. Shepherd joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha Academy, Minn.), Trae Young (2016-17, Norman North High School, Ok.), Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), and Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-3, 180-pound senior guard led the Hillers to an 18-5 record and the postseason quarterfinals of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association state tournament this past season. Shepherd averaged 22.6 points, 7.4 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.6 steals per game. He led Tower Hill to a DIAA state championship as a junior in 2022.

Shepherd has volunteered locally on behalf of the YMCA, the Delaware Food Bank, the Red Cross Blood Supply Foundation and Ministry of Caring. “He represents exactly what your award is about,” said Saint Mark’s High School head coach Lonnie White. “He is, bar none, their very best player. He’s an outstanding basketball talent and an even better young man.”

Shepherd has maintained an A average 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.

Shepherd joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Players of the Year Justin Molen (2021-22, Salesianum School), Nnanna Njoku (2020-21, Sanford School), Elijah Allen (2019-20, Dover High School), and Jyare Davis (2018-19, Sanford School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade’s Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners, supporting Gatorade’s ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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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