

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 21, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Annor Boateng of Little Rock Central High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Boateng is the third Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Little Rock Central High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Boateng as Arkansas' best high school boys basketball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes LeBron James (2002-03 & 2001-02, St. Vincent – St. Mary High School, Ohio), Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.) and Jayson Tatum (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.).

The 6-foot-6, 210-pound senior swingman averaged 18.4 points, 7.9 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.4 steals this past season, leading the Tigers (27-6) to the Class 6A state title. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Boateng is ranked as the nation's No. 26 recruit in the Class of 2024 by both 247Sports and Rivals. He was named the 2024 Class 6A Tournament MVP and shot 57.9 percent from inside the arc this winter.

A saxophonist in his school's marching, symphonic and concert bands, Boateng has volunteered locally on behalf of the Arkansas HAWKS food pantry, the Museum of Discovery and as an instructor for youth basketball players at the Boys & Girls Club. He has also served as an IT intern for the City of Little Rock and has worked as a sales associate at Foot Locker. He attends the Fellowship Bible Church, where he has participated in youth retreats. "I think Annor Boateng has the edge in Gatorade's Player of the Year race this season," said Troy Campbell, head coach of Vilonia High School. "He can do so much to help a team win. He's a really good defender, he rebounds, he blocks shots, he does all the big and little things that help a team win."

Boateng has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Two-time winner Boateng joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Derrian Ford (2021-22 & 2020-21, Magnolia High School) and Jaylin Williams (2019-20, Northside High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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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