

**WICHITA HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **TJ Williams** of **Wichita Heights High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Williams is the second Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wichita Heights 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 Williams as Kansas’ 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-5, 195-pound senior guard averaged 14.0 points, 7.1 rebounds, 3.8 assists, 1.6 steals and 1.3 blocks this past season, leading the Falcons (23-2) to the Class 6A state championship game. Williams was a 2023 Class 6A First Team All-State selection and the VYPE Wichita Area Player of the Year. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,278 points.

Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of Better Academic and Social Excellence (BAASE), a Wichita-based high school fraternity. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. “TJ is obviously a fantastic player,” said Andy Hill, head coach of Wichita Northwest High School. “What makes him special is how unselfish he is. He could easily average 25 points a game in our league, but he’s not out there hunting shots and hunting stats. He gets his teammates involved and he just always seems to make the right play.”

Williams has maintained a weighted 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Wichita 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matas Buzelis (2022-23, Sunrise Christian Academy), Gradey Dick (2021-22, Sunrise Christian Academy & 2019-20, Wichita Collegiate School) and Kennedy Chandler (2020-21, Sunrise Christian Academy), 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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