

**LARGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Cam Ward** of **Largo High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Ward is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Largo 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 Ward as Maryland’s 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-8, 205-pound junior forward led the Lions to a 25-2 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. Ward averaged 26.0 points, 11.5 rebounds, 2.7 steals, 2.4 assists and 2.1 blocks per game, and recorded 29 points, 16 rebounds, six blocks and five steals in his team’s 66-52 win over Carver Vocational Tech in the state final. A 2023 Washington Post First Team All-Met selection, he’s ranked as the nation’s No. 40 recruit in the Class of 2025 by ESPN. He concluded his junior year with 1,913 points in his prep basketball career.

Ward has volunteered locally at the Capitol Area Food Bank as part of the Team Durant Family Foundation. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach. “Cam is a very special player,” said Jonathan Blackmon, head coach of Fairmont Heights High School. “Now that he can score from all three levels, along with his athleticism, that makes him unstoppable.”

Ward has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Ward joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Players of the Year Amani Hansberry (2022-23, Mount Saint Joseph High School), Cam Whitmore (2021-22, Archbishop Spalding High School), Jordan Hawkins (2020-21, DeMatha Catholic High School) and Hunter Dickinson (2019-20, DeMatha Catholic 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 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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