

**LONG ISLAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **VJ Edgcombe** of **Long Island Lutheran Middle & High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Edgcombe is the second Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Long Island Lutheran Middle & 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 Edgcombe as New York'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. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, **Edgcombe** joins 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-4, 190-pound senior wing had led the Crusaders to a 21-4 record and a berth in the Chipotle High School Basketball Nationals. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Edgcombe averaged 17.3 points, 6.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists, 2.3 steals and 1.1 blocks through 25 games. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, he was named to Team World for the Nike Hoop Summit in April. He's ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.

Edgcombe has been an active member of his church in the Bahamas and he volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "We've had the pleasure of playing against VJ and watching him play over the last few years," said Dan Feeney, head coach of Chaminade High School. "He's the best player in New York state that I've seen in my 16 years of coaching. He's a pro-level athlete who shoots the ball at a high rate. He does all of this while letting the game come to him and sharing the ball with his teammates."

Edgcombe has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Baylor 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.

Two-time winner Edgcombe joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tobe Awaka (2021-22, Cardinal Hayes High School), Jordan Riley (2020-21, Brentwood High School) and R.J. Davis (2019-20, Archbishop Stepinac 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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