

**ARCHBISHOP WOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Jalil Bethea** of **Archbishop Wood High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Bethea is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Wood 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 Bethea as Pennsylvania’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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-4, 180-pound senior guard had led the Vikings to a 19-8 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament semifinals. Bethea averaged 23.2 points, 7.0 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 1.5 steals per game through 27 games. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection and a semifinalist for the 2024 Naismith Award, Bethea is a two-time Philadelphia Catholic League MVP. He’s ranked as the nation’s No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2024 by 247Sports.

Bethea has volunteered locally on behalf of Athletes Helping Athletes, Inc., a program that connects special needs students with mainstream student-athletes. He has also donated his time as part of multiple fundraisers to benefit the Philadelphia Autism Project. “Jalil is a terrific athlete,” said Fran O’Hanlon, head coach of Cardinal O’Hara High School. “He can score at all three levels [and has] outstanding range. He’s the best high school player I’ve seen this year.”

Bethea has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Miami 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.

Bethea joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Rob Wright (2022-23, Neumann-Goretti High School), Dereck Lively (2021-22, Westtown School), Stevie Mitchell (2020-21, Wilson High School) and Ethan Morton (2019-20, Butler Area Senior 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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