

**SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Griffen Goodbary** of **Sioux Falls Christian School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Goodbary is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sioux Falls Christian 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 Goodbary as South Dakota'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-10, 200-pound junior power forward averaged 19.4 points, 7.1 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.7 blocks per game this past season, leading the Chargers (23-3) to the Class A state title game. Goodbary recorded 19 points and 11 rebounds in an overtime loss in the state final. A 2024 All-Tournament selection, he is ranked as the state's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2025 by PrepHoops.

Goodbary has volunteered locally on behalf of The Banquet, helping to feed the less fortunate. He has also donated his time to Feeding America and has both coached and served as a game referee for youth basketball players. "Griffin is a young man of high moral character and has a servant's heart when it comes to interactions with his teammates and others," said Mike Schouten, head coach of Sioux Falls Christian High School. "I believe he's one of the best players in the state of South Dakota and the entire region. You can see his intelligence on the floor as well—he often sees things that I don't see or sees them before I do. His basketball IQ is very high. He's a great person both on and off the court."

Goodbary has maintained a 4.0 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.

Goodbary joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaac Bruns (2022-23, Dakota Valley High School), Kalen Garry (2021-22, De Smet High School), and Matthew Mors (2020-21 & 2019-20, Yankton 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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