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**RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® VERMONT BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jamison Evans of Rutland High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Evans is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rutland High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Evans as Vermont's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Evans joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-3, 165-pound senior guard/forward had led the Raiders to a 19-4 record and a berth in the Division I state finals at the time of his selection. Evans averaged 23.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 4.9 assists through 23 games. A Burlington Free Press First Team All-State selection, he was also named to the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen, and was USA TODAY's ALL-USA Vermont Player of the Year as a junior.

Evans has volunteered locally as an athlete partner for a Special Olympics Unified Sports team as well as on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Jamison Evans is a special player," said Eric Green, head coach at Burr and Burton Academy. "He's very well-rounded—a great shooter, strong to the rim, runs the floor well, and he's an above-average defender."

Evans has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Lynn University in Florida 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Evans joins Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kam Farris (2017-18, Rice Memorial High School), Calvin Carter (2016-17, Enosburg Falls High School), and Ben Shungu (2015-16 & 2014-15, Rice Memorial High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Evans also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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