

## **WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Jayden Miranda of West Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Miranda as Alaska’s best high school boys basketball player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, MO), Cooper Flagg (2023-24, Montverde Academy, FL) and Cameron Boozer (2022-23 & 2024-25, Christopher Columbus High School, FL).

At the time of his selection, the 5-foot-11, 155-pound junior guard had led the Wolfpack to a 20-3 record and a berth in Alaska’s 4A state tournament. The 2026 Alaska Prep Shootout MVP, Miranda averaged 14.7 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.5 assists through 23 games while shooting 51.8 percent from the floor and 39.7 percent from beyond the arc. He was voted Preseason 4A Player of the Year in the Alaska Sports Report coaches poll and led West Valley to a Mid Alaska Conference championship with 23 points in a 64-60 win over Lathrop.

Miranda has volunteered locally with the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and as a youth basketball coach. He is also a practiced artist and has taken multiple cooking classes since reaching high school. “Miranda is a great kid on and off the court—gets good grades and never gets in trouble,” said Travis Church, head coach of North Pole High School. “Looking around 4A, I don’t see anyone who would measure up. He’s the best player on the best team in the state. It’s hard for me to imagine going with anyone else.”

Miranda has maintained a 3.36 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 state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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