

**LITTLE ROCK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER
OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced JJ Andrews of Little Rock Christian Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Andrews as Arkansas' 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).

The 6-foot-7, 220-pound senior guard led the Warriors to a 23-8 record and the second round of the 5A state tournament this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Andrews averaged 30.7 points, 16.9 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 2.3 steals and 1.1 blocks per game while shooting 60.9 percent from the floor. A McDonald's All-American, he concluded his prep career with 2,865 points, which ranks No. 5 in state history.

Andrews has volunteered locally with the Little Rock Christian basketball team's Warrior Champs program by mentoring middle school boys. He has also donated his time by hosting free basketball camps for underprivileged children and as a Special Olympics assistant at the Damian Lillard Basketball Camp. "JJ is definitely dangerous with the ball, mainly because of his size and strength," said Todd Ezzi, head coach at Catholic High School for Bpys. "He's got a good first step and I'd venture to say there are very few kids in the state who could guard him one-on-one."

Andrews has maintained a weighted 3.76 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Arkansas 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 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.

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