

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Caleb Gaskins of Christopher Columbus High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Florida 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 Gaskins as Florida’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 6-foot-8, 225-pound senior forward had led the Explorers (26-6) to a fifth straight Class 7A state championship and a berth in The Throne Nationals. Gaskins averaged 22.6 points, 9.5 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.1 steals through 32 games. A 2026 McDonald’s All-American Game selection, he was a semifinalist for the Naismith Award.

Gaskins has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his school. “Caleb Gaskins is the total package of size and skill on the court,” said Robinson Fanfan, head coach of Stranahan High School. “He moves the needle both from a defensive and offensive aspect. I didn’t see any flaws in his game when we played them.”

Gaskins has maintained a weighted 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Miami 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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