

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA 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 Luke Ertel of Mount Vernon High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Indiana 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 Ertel as Indiana'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-2, 180-pound senior guard had led the Marauders to a 24-3 record and a berth in the Class 4A regional semifinals. Ertel averaged 24.1 points, 9.8 rebounds, 5.9 assists and 1.9 steals through 27 games. A 2025 Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Supreme 15 Underclass All-State selection, he entered the regional semifinals with 1,650 points in his prep career.

A member of the Hancock County Youth Leadership Council, Ertel has volunteered locally with the Formula Zero Clinic and a basketball camp for children with special needs. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Luke can turn a game's momentum whether as a scorer, shooter or facilitator," said Matt McKay, Pro Insight Founder & CEO. "His basketball IQ and gritty toughness consistently shine through, no matter the environment."

Ertel has maintained a weighted 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Purdue University 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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