

CAMDEN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE 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 Nolan Ames of Camden Hills Regional High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Maine 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 Ames as Maine’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).

The 6-foot-2, 170-pound senior guard led the Windjammers to a 20-2 record and a berth in the Class A state championship game this past season. Ames averaged 26.4 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.6 assists and three steals per game, including a game-high 30 points in his team’s state championship loss to Portland. He finished his career as the leading scorer in Camden Hills history with 1,585 points and was named Maine’s 2025-26 Mr. Basketball.

A three-year captain and member of the National Honor Society, Ames has volunteered locally with the YMCA and the Windjammer Basketball youth program. He works from spring through fall at a local restaurant shucking oysters and co-founded Coastal Grind Academy, his own basketball training endeavor. “Nolan’s the best player we faced all season,” said Ben Clark, head coach of Brunswick High School. “He shoots it really well, but he’s more than just a shooter because he can score at all three levels. He’s an elite athlete with an incredible first-step burst. He also jumps well and can finish over the top. His court vision is excellent. In fact, he might be a better passer than scorer. And defensively, he can guard at a high level at all five positions. I think he’s the best player in Maine.”

Ames has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will attend Colby College this fall, where he will play basketball.

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.

###