

CLINTON GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 J'Lon Lyons of Clinton Grace Christian School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Maryland 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 Lyons as Maryland'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-3, 166-pound junior guard averaged 15.1 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 2.4 steals per game this past season, leading the Eagles (22-11) to the Maryland Private School State Tournament championship game. The Metro Private School Conference co-Player of the Year, Lyons is ranked as the nation's No. 52 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN. He concluded his junior year with 985 points in his prep career.

Lyons has volunteered locally hosting a bible study group at Clinton Grace Christian School, and he has donated his time as a youth basketball coach. "J'Lon Lyons is one of the most explosive players in the country," said James Parker, head coach of Fairfax Christian High School. "His ability to get to his spots and explode downhill remind me of a young Steve Francis. His Clinton Grace High School team was talented, but J'Lon's the player that moved the needle."

Lyons has maintained a B average 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 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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