

HORACE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Carter Evanson of Horace High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade North Dakota 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 Evanson as North Dakota’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, 170 pound senior guard led the Hawks to a 18-3 record and the Class AA quarterfinals this past season. Evanson averaged 26.5 points and 5.2 assists per game, scoring 40 points and grabbing 9 rebounds in a January win over Sheyenne High School. The North Dakota High School Coaches Association Senior Athlete of the Year and Mr. Basketball finalist, he’s ranked as the state’s No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2026 by PrepHoops. Evanson led Class AA in points (655) and assists (128) as well as steals per game (3.1) in his final season. He concluded his prep career with 1,775 points and 370 assists and will graduate as the program leader in both categories.

Evanson has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children, an organization that aims to mitigate hunger and starvation among underserved youth. He has also donated his time as a coach with the Special Olympics and at youth basketball camps. “Carter is a tremendous basketball player and athlete,” said Adam Palczewski, head coach of West Fargo High School. “He has presented a matchup problem in every game this season. He’s dynamic and can score from the rim to beyond the arc. He has consistently been the best basketball player in our state this season.”

Evanson has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of North Dakota 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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