

WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 Anthony Thompson of Western Reserve Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Ohio 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 Thompson as Ohio’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-9, 213-pound senior forward averaged 25.6 points and 9.4 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Pioneers (26-7) to the the National Prep Championships tournament. Thompson also averaged 2.8 assists and 1.7 steals while connecting on 40.4 percent of his 3-points shots (88-of-218). A 2026 McDonald’s All-American Game selection, he was a member of the 2026 Naismith Award Midseason Team and is ranked as the nation’s No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports.com.

A member of the Athletic Leadership Council at Western Reserve, Thompson has volunteered locally at the Barlow Community Center in Hudson and as a youth basketball coach. “‘Ant’ is one of the smoothest operators you’ll find in America,” said Matt McKay, Pro Insight Founder & CEO. “He boasts positional size, pro-level physical tools, two-way versatility and deep range as a shooter—and he’s yet to really scratch the surface of his overall long-term potential.”

Thompson has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Ohio State 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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