

CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Eliezer Delbrey of Classical High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Delbrey as Rhode Island’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, 175-pound senior guard led the Purple (19-8) to the quarterfinals of both the Division 1 tournament and the Open State Tournament. Delbrey averaged 27.2 points to lead the state and added eight rebounds and six assists per game. He shot 90.6 percent from the free throw line and became the ninth player in state history to eclipse 2,000 career points, concluding his prep career with 2,203, which ranks sixth in state history. He earned Division 1 Player of the Year honors for a third straight season.

Delbrey has volunteered locally at the Vincent Brown Recreation Center, working as a camp counselor and mentoring elementary school students in an after-school program. He has also donated his time at the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul during the holidays, helping move furniture and hang decorations. “My whole game plan this year against Classical was focused around stopping him and he still had 22 against us,” said James Sorrentine, head coach at Shea High School. “He makes the game look easy. The thing I love about him—and what makes him so hard to guard—is his ability to take what the defense gives him. To be as unselfish as he is and still put up the numbers he puts up is really special and the reason he consistently wins.”

Delbrey has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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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