

UPPERMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Ty Cobb of Upperman High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Tennessee 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 Cobb as Tennessee’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).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-2, 180-pound junior guard had led the Bees to a 30-5 record and a berth in the Class AAA state quarterfinals. Cobb averaged 29.0 points, 5.1 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 1.8 steals through 35 games. A two-time Class AAA Mr. Basketball winner and the MVP of the 2025 Class AAA state tournament, Cobb shot an impressive 58 percent from the field and 42.5 from behind the arc to compile a true shooting percentage of 70.4 leading up to the postseason round of eight. He entered the state quarterfinals with 2,589 points in his prep career.

A member of the FCCL, career preparation and workforce readiness organization, Cobb has volunteered locally as a peer buddy with the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. “Ty Cobb is the real deal,” said Jim McDowell, head coach of Lebanon High School. “Everyone that plays Upperman starts and finishes their game plan by trying to figure out how to contain or slow down Ty—because you’re not going to stop him. He was the best player on the floor and also made all of his teammates better as well.”

Cobb has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play basketball at Liberty University beginning in the fall of 2027.

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.

###