

## **WASATCH ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Junior County of Wasatch Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Utah 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 County as Utah’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-5, 180-pound senior guard averaged 19.1 points and 6.2 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Tigers (24-6) to the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League Scholastic Conference Tournament semifinals. County also averaged 3.7 assists and 1.2 blocks per game. Ranked as the nation’s No. 29 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports.com, he has participated in multiple training camps with the USA Basketball Under-17 Men’s National Team.

County has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. “Junior has turned himself into one of the deadliest perimeter shooters and two-way weapons in the country,” said Matt McKay, Pro Insight Founder & CEO. “His feel for the game is glaringly evident at both ends of the floor.”

County has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Connecticut 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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