

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 15, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Annor Boateng of Little Rock Central High School is the 2022-23 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Boateng is the third Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Little Rock Central High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Boateng as Arkansas’ best high school boys basketball player. Boateng joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha Academy, Minn.), Trae Young (2016-17, Norman North High School, Ok.), Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), and Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-5, 205-pound junior forward averaged 15.9 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 1.9 steals and 1.4 blocks per game this past season, leading the Tigers to a 24-7 record and the quarterfinals of the 6A state tournament. Boateng is ranked as the nation’s No. 30 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN. He is also a 6A-Central First Team All-Conference selection.

Boateng has volunteered locally coaching a church league basketball team in addition to donating his time instructing local teams of 7-year-olds in basketball drills. He is also training to be a volunteer this summer at the Museum of Discovery, a children’s museum in Little Rock. “Annor was a matchup nightmare,” said Logan Bailey, head coach at Cabot High School. “He’s physical enough to take your guards and wings down in the post and dominate, but he’s also quick and skilled enough to beat your bigs off the bounce.”

Boateng has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Boateng joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Derrian Ford (2021-22 & 2020-21, Magnolia High School), Jaylin Williams (2019-20, Northside High School), and Issac McBride (2018-19, Baptist Preparatory School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade’s Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade’s social impact partners, supporting Gatorade’s ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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