

LITTLE ROCK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 20, 2025)— In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced JJ Andrews of Little Rock Christian Academy is the 2024-25 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Andrews is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Little Rock Christian Academy.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Andrews as Arkansas' best high school boys basketball player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Jayson Tatum (2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.) and Cooper Flagg (2023-24, Montverde Academy, Fl.).

The 6-foot-7, 215-pound junior shooting guard led the Warriors (24-8) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals this past season, averaging 28.5 points, 10.1 rebounds, 3.3 assists and two blocks. Ranked as the nation's No. 16 recruit in his class by ESPN, Andrews was MVP of the 2024 state tournament and was named the top junior at the Nike Thanksgiving Hoopfest. Also an NBPA Top 100 participant, he concluded his junior year with 2,201 points in his prep career.

Andrews has volunteered locally on behalf of the Arkansas Food Bank and the New Life Church Fall Fest. He has also donated his time as a counselor and coach at multiple youth basketball camps, including in association with the Special Olympics. "JJ Andrews is without question the best player in the state of Arkansas," said Caleb Surly, head coach at Little Rock Central High School. "Our staff has always thought there's no way he's not the No. 1 player nationally in his class. No player means more to their respective team. He's the best player in the state on both ends of the floor. His continued development as an individual player has been incredible. He's genuinely a high-character kid, a high performer academically and he comes from a great family that's actively involved in the community."

Andrews has maintained a weighted 3.69 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Andrews joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Annor Boateng (2023-24 & 2022-23, Little Rock Central High School) and Derrian Ford (2021-22 & 2020-21, Magnolia High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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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