

**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jared McCain** of **Centennial High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McCain is the first Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 McCain as California's best high school boys basketball player. McCain 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-4, 200-pound senior guard led the Huskies to a 30-4 record and the Southern Section Open Division Tournament championship this past season. McCain averaged 18.0 points, 7.1 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.5 steals per game as the Huskies reached the statewide CIF Open Division tournament semifinals. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, he is ranked as the nation's No. 12 recruit in the Class of 2023 by ESPN.com.

McCain has volunteered locally on behalf of a school sports program for special needs students. "McCain is one of the best 3-point shot-makers in the country," said Paul Biancardi, National Recruiting Director at ESPN. "His jumper is polished in catch-and-shoot scenarios, but he can also create space for himself to get clean looks at the basket. He manipulates defenders in ball-screen situations as both a scoring threat and playmaker. He also plays with big heart and a strong basketball IQ, having won a championship on every platform, including USA Basketball, high school and summer club play."

McCain has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke University 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.

Two-time winner McCain joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Malik Thomas (2020-21, Damien High School) and Evan Mobley (2019-20 & 2018-19, Rancho Christian High 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).