

**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Cameron Boozer of Christopher Columbus High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Boozer is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christopher Columbus 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 Boozer as Florida's best high school boys basketball player. Now one of three finalists for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Boozer 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-9, 215-pound sophomore forward led the Explorers to a 26-4 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Boozer averaged 21.1 points, 11.2 rebounds, 4.2 assists, 2.0 blocks and 1.3 steals per game, including a 13-point, 12-rebound effort in the team's 50-48 win over Winter Haven High in the state final. A semifinalist for the Naismith Boys High School Player of the Year, he is ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2025 by ESPN.com.

A student of the cello, Boozer has spent years playing in a community orchestra. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Fellowship Church by assisting with youth services, including leading weekly bible study. He has also donated his time as a mathematics peer tutor, both in algebra and geometry. "Cam is a generational talent," said Alex Ordoqui, head coach of Palmetto High School. "He is the engine of a Columbus team that has burst onto the national stage. He is obviously insanely talented. He can pass, shoot and dribble incredibly well for a player his age and size."

Boozer has maintained a weighted 4.81 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Boozer joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dariq Whitehead (2021-22, Montverde Academy), Caleb Houston (2020-21, Montverde Academy), Cade Cunningham (2019-20, Montverde Academy), and Vernon Carey Jr. (2018-19, NSU University 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.