

**MADISON-RIDGELAND ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Josh Hubbard** of **Madison-Ridgeland Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Hubbard is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison-Ridgeland Academy.

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 Hubbard as Mississippi’s best high school boys basketball player. Hubbard 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 5-foot-10, 180-pound senior guard averaged 27.1 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 1.1 steals per game this past season, leading the Patriots (34-8) to the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools 6A championship. Hubbard’s team also reached the semifinals of the MAIS open tournament. Ranked as the nation’s No. 73 recruit in the Class of 2023 by ESPN, he scored 1,134 points this season, concluding his high school career with a state-record 4,367 points, breaking a mark that had stood for 37 years.

An active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hubbard has volunteered locally with his church community, serving as a team leader at a variety of youth camps. He also has donated his time as a coach and mentor for youth athletes. “Josh is incredibly strong and developed,” said Bill Ball, head coach at Hartfield Academy. “This allows him to finish through contact and defenders bounce off him when he drives to the basket. He has incredible range on his jumper, and his strength and quickness allow him to stop on a dime, shoot mid-range or elevate on his jumper.”

Hubbard has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided on a collegiate destination.

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.

Hubbard joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kimani Hamilton (2021-22, Clinton High School), Daeshun Ruffin (2020-21 & 2019-20, Callaway High School), and D.J. Jeffries (2018-19, Olive Branch 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.