

**STALEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Kyan Evans** of **Staley High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Evans is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Staley 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 Evans as Missouri's best high school boys basketball player. Evans 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-2, 175-pound senior guard had led the Falcons to a 27-2 record and a berth in the Class 6 state quarterfinals. Evans averaged 12.4 points, 5.7 assists, 4.0 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game through 29 games. A two-time Class 6 First Team All-State selection, he was the 2022 Kansas City Metro Player of the Year.

A member of his school's leadership council, Evans has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Kyan is the best player for the best team in the state," said Joe Price, head coach of Liberty High School. "He could score more, but gets his teammates involved. He defends at a high level as well as controls the game on offense."

Evans has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Colorado State 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.

Evans joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Players of the Year Luke Northweather (2021-22, Blair Oaks High School), Aminu Mohammed (2020-21 & 2018-19, Greenwood Laboratory School), and Caleb Love (2019-20, Christian Brothers College 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.

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