

**CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **DJ Wagner** of **Camden High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Wagner is the second Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Camden 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 Wagner as New Jersey’s best high school boys basketball player. Wagner 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-4, 180-pound senior guard and forward averaged 22.5 points and 3.3 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Panthers to a 23-2 record. Wagner also produced 3.0 assists and 1.6 steals per contest. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection, he will represent Team USA at the Nike Hoop Summit in April. He’s ranked as the nation’s No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2023 by ESPN.com.

Wagner has volunteered locally on behalf of toy and clothing-donation drives. “Wagner is the most dynamic downhill rim-attacker in his class,” said Paul Biancardi, National Recruiting Director for ESPN. “He comes at defenders with both speed and shake as he drives the paint. Once he’s in the lane, his footwork, body control and layup ability are elite. He’s smart at utilizing jump-stops to finish and create contact. His pull-up and 3-point shots are more than capable. His grandfather, Milt, and dad, DaJuan, were former NBA guys and DJ is a serious player who brings a highly competitive drive and winning résumé to the court.”

Wagner has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Three-time winner Wagner joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Cliff Omoruyi (2019-20, Roselle Catholic High School) and Jabri Abdur-Rahim (2018-19, Blair Academy), 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.