

**LONG ISLAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **VJ Edgcombe** of **Long Island Lutheran High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Edgcombe is the third Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Long Island Lutheran 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 Edgcombe as New York’s best high school boys basketball player. Edgcombe 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, 190-pound junior wing player has led the Crusaders to a 21-2 record and a berth in the GEICO High School Nationals tournament. Edgcombe is averaging 15.5 points, 5.0 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.5 blocks per game through 23 contests. In his first year playing high school basketball, Edgcombe, a native of the Bahamas, led the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference in scoring. He is ranked as the nation’s No. 52 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.com.

Edgcombe has been an active member of his church in the Bahamas, and he volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. “VJ is one of the best athletes in our league,” said Luke Barnwell, head coach of Sunrise Christian (Kan.) High. “He has developed great ball skills and shooting to go alongside his elite athleticism.”

Edgcombe has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Edgcombe joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tobe Awaka (2021-22, Cardinal Hayes High School), Jordan Riley (2020-21, Brentwood High School), R.J. Davis (2019-20, Archbishop Stepinac High School), and Joe Girard III (2018-19, Glens Falls 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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