

**BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Azmar Abdullah** of **Bishop Hendricken High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Abdullah is the sixth Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Hendricken 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 Abdullah as Rhode Island's best high school boys basketball player. Abdullah 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-3, 185-pound senior guard had averaged 22.8 points, 3.8 rebounds, 5.6 assists and 1.8 steals per game this season, leading the Hawks to a 23-4 record and a berth in the state tournament semifinals. Abdullah scored a career-high 47 points in a victory earlier this season, hitting a school-record 10 shots from 3-point range on 11 attempts. He scored 20 or more points 17 times through 27 games, and 30 or more in six of those contests.

Abdullah has volunteered locally the past three years with a Christmas toy drive and on behalf of a soup kitchen. He also has donated his time at various basketball camps. "He is lights-out from behind the 3-point line, highlighted by his 47-point performance against us this year," said John Kavanagh, head coach at Classical High School. "He handles the ball the majority of the game, can get to the rim, create his own shot and is tremendous in transition."

Abdullah has maintained a 3.06 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.

Abdullah joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Players of the Year Denzel Correia (2021-22, Rocky Hill Country Day School), Matt Constant (2020-21, St. Andrew's School), Erickson Bans (2019-20, Shea High School), and Tyler Kolek (2018-19, St. George's 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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