

**JAMES MONROE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Eli Allen** of **James Monroe High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Allen is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from James Monroe 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 Allen as West Virginia’s best high school boys basketball player. Allen 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-4, 175-pound senior guard had led the Mavericks to a 22-2 record and the Region 3 title, earning a berth in the Class A state tournament as defending champions. Entering the statewide postseason, Allen is averaging 21 points, 7.6 rebounds, 9.1 assists, 3.1 steals and 1.6 blocks per game. He had also recorded four triple-doubles and also owns school records for career field goals, free throws and assists.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Allen has volunteered locally at the Monroe County 4-H camp every summer. He has also donated his time as a volunteer at multiple youth basketball camps. “Eli is a dynamic athlete with a high basketball IQ—he understands when he needs to score and when he needs to facilitate,” said Brandon Wickline, head coach at Meadow Ridge High. “You can put him on any team in the state and he is immediately going to make that team better.”

Allen has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon 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.

Allen joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaac McKneely (2021-22 & 2020-21, Poca High School) and Jaemyn Brakefield (2019-20 & 2018-19, Huntington-St. Joseph Prep), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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