BUCKHORN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 21, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Caleb Holt** of **Buckhorn High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Holt is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Buckhorn High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Holt as Alabama's best high school boys basketball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes LeBron James (2002-03 & 2001-02, St. Vincent – St. Mary High School, Ohio), Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.) and Jayson Tatum (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.).

The 6-foot-6, 200-pound sophomore guard led the Bucks to a 28-5 record and the Class 6 state championship this past season. Holt averaged 20.2 points, 9.5 rebounds, 3.0 steals and 2.4 assists per game, recording 16 points and 13 boards in Buckhorn's 52-51 win over Mountain Brook High School in the state final. A gold medalist with the Under-16 Men's National Team at the 2023 FIBA Americas Championships in Mexico, Holt is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2026 by ESPN. He concluded his sophomore year with 1,798 points in his prep basketball career.

Holt has volunteered locally on behalf of Groceries on God, providing food and necessities to needy families in Huntsville. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Caleb is a great player," said Chris Richardson, head coach of Clay-Chalkville High School. "He fills every stat column along with being an unbelievable leader as a sophomore."

Holt has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Holt joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year Labaron Philon (2022-23, Baker High School), Barry Dunning (2021-22 & 2020-21, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School) and JerDarrian Davison (2019-20, The Calhoun School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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.