

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA 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 **Kellen Jedlicka** of **Grace Christian School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Jedlicka is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grace Christian 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 Jedlicka as Alaska'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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-5, 210-pound senior wing had led the Grizzlies to a 22-4 record and a berth in the 3A state tournament. Jedlicka averaged 24 points, 7.8 rebounds and 4.4 assists through 26 games, shooting 63 percent from the floor. The Peninsula Conference MVP, he was also Alaska's 3A state championship MVP in 2023 and was named to the 3A All-Tournament team.

A National Honor Society member, Jedlicka has volunteered locally with the St. John's Church food bank and as a bible camp volunteer. He has also served as both class secretary and class president at Grace Christian School in addition to donating his time to help raise money for diabetes research. "He's an outstanding player who controls the game with his (smarts) and manipulates defenses to make the game easier for his teammates," said Josh Muehlenkamp, head coach of West Anchorage High School. "Whether scoring, passing, defending or communicating on defense, he sees the game at a higher level than most high school players."

Jedlicka has maintained a weighted 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho 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.

Jedlicka joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Stewart Erhart (2022-23 & 2021-22, West Valley High School), Patrick McMahon (2020-21, Colony High School) and Isaiah Moses (2019-20, Dimond High 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.

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