## DOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 21, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Dorell Little** of **Dover High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Little is the fourth Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dover 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 Little as Delaware'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-5, 200-pound senior guard led the Senators to a 23-2 record and the state championship this past season. Little averaged 19.6 points and 7.3 rebounds per game and scored 31 points and grabbed nine rebounds in Dover's 56-53 win over Salesianum in the title game. Ranked as the No. 2 player in the state by Delaware Online entering the season, Little was a Delaware Blue-Gold All-Star honoree.

Little has volunteered locally on behalf of Blue Gold Best Buddies of Delaware and is a member of his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "He really scores the ball," said Gary Lumpkin, head coach of William Penn High School. "He was everything for Dover. He gets buckets, is solid on both ends of the floor and is a key leader for their team."

Little has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Little joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dean Shepherd (2022-23, Tower Hill School), Justin Molen (2021-22, Salesianum School), Nnanna Njoku (2020-21, Sanford School) and Elijah Allen (2019-20, Dover 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 <a href="mailto:facebook.com/GatoradePOY">facebook.com/GatoradePOY</a>, Instagram at <a href="mailto:instagram.com/Gatorade">instagram.com/Gatorade</a> and Twitter at <a href="mailto:twitter.com/Gatorade">twitter.com/Gatorade</a>.