

**SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Acaden Lewis** of **Sidwell Friends School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Lewis is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sidwell Friends 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 Lewis as District of Columbia'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-3, 170-pound junior guard led the Quakers to a 27-4 record and both the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference title and the DCSAA Class AA tournament championship this past season. Lewis averaged 14.5 points, 5.7 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 1.5 steals, and he recorded 16 points, nine boards and four assists in Sidwell's 47-37 win over St. John's College High School in the DCSAA title game. He is ranked as the nation's No. 89 recruit in the Class of 2025 by Rivals.

Lewis has volunteered locally on behalf of We Feed Our People as well as Bread for the City. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach. "Acaden really impressed me this year," said Chuck Driesell, head coach of the Maret School. "The things he did were at a high level. I saw for the first time that he is truly a high-major prospect. His size for his position is the most difficult thing to defend. It sets him apart at the high school level."

Lewis has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Malik Mack (2022-23, St. John's College High School), Darren Buchanan (2021-22, Woodrow Wilson High School), Quincy Allen (2020-21, Maret School) and Terrance Williams (2019-20, Gonzaga College 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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