

**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Curtis 'CJ' Stinson, Jr.** of **Valley High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Stinson, Jr. is the second Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley 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 Stinson, Jr. as Iowa'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, 190-pound junior shooting guard averaged 19.8 points, seven rebounds and four assists this past season, leading the Tigers to the Class 4A state title. Ranked among the nation's top 150 recruits by both Rivals and On3, Stinson, Jr. culminated the 2023-24 campaign by being named captain of the 4A All-Tournament Team. Also a 2024 First Team All-State selection, he will enter his senior season as a two-time state champion.

Stinson, Jr. has volunteered locally as part of an elementary school mentorship program and has donated his time coaching at youth basketball camps. "CJ is a great player and deserving of Gatorade Player of the Year honors," said Kevin Kanaskie, head coach of Waukee High School. "As a rising senior, he's led his team to back-to-back state championships. Game-planning for him has always been a challenge. He's athletic and a good shooter, but it's his basketball IQ that separates him."

Stinson, Jr. has maintained a weighted 3.60 GPA 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.

Stinson, Jr. joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Omaha Biliew (2022-23, Waukee High School), Tamin Lipsey (2021-22, Ames High School), Tucker DeVries (2020-21, Waukee High School) and Bowen Born (2019-20, Norwalk 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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