

**CATS ACADEMY BOSTON STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Jaylen Harrell** of **CATS Academy Boston** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Harrell is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from CATS Academy Boston.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Harrell as Massachusetts' 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, 210-pound junior guard averaged 24 points and 7.1 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Griffins (21-10) to a berth in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Class AA tournament. Harrell also averaged 4.6 assists per game en route to becoming a two-time NEPSAC All-League Class A honoree. A National Prep School Invitational All-Tournament selection, he's ranked as the nation's No. 68 prospect in the Class of 2025 by On3.com.

Harrell has volunteered locally on behalf of the Tobin Community Center in Roxbury, Mass., and as a coach with the Wayne Selden Camp. "Jaylen is an exceptional scorer and can really shoot the ball," said Mike Hart, head coach of St. Andrew's School. "He's a tall guard, but he's aggressive and plays great defense. He conducted himself well on the court. He's a definite Division I guy."

Harrell has maintained a B 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.

Harrell joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Players of the Year AJ Dybantsa (2022-23, St. Sebastian's School), TJ Power (2021-22, Worcester Academy), Kyle Filipowski (2020-21, Wilbraham & Monson Academy) and Dallion Johnson (2019-20, Phillips Academy), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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