## WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Jackson McAndrew** of **Wayzata High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. McAndrew is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wayzata 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 McAndrew as Minnesota'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-9, 215-pound senior forward had led the Trojans to a 27-1 record and a berth in the AAAA state tournament. McAndrew averaged 23.9 points, 10.1 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.3 steals per game through 28 games, shooting 52 percent from the floor and 80 percent at the foul line. A consensus national Top 40 recruit in the Class of 2024 as rated by 247Sports, Rivals, On3 and PrepHoops, he was also the 2024 Minneapolis Star Tribune Metro Player of the Year.

McAndrew has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple basketball camps. He has also recently completed a coaching and officiating class, from which he gained 25 hours of experience. "Jackson pressed our guards full-court and, with his length, he is able to make life really hard for guys bringing the ball up the court," said Jeff Oseth, head coach of St. Michael-Albertville High School. "He can shoot, he rebounds, he runs the floor, he posts up and finishes with contact, and he defends the whole length of the floor."

McAndrew has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Creighton University this fall.

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.

McAndrew joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Nolan Winter (2022-23, Lakeville North High School), Tre Holloman (2021-22, Cretin-Derham Hall High School), Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha Academy) and Jalen Suggs (2019-20, Minnehaha 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 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>.