

**NEW MADRID COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Jadis Jones** of **New Madrid County Central High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Jones is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from New Madrid County Central 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 Jones as Missouri’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, 195-pound senior guard led the Eagles to a 28-3 record and a second straight Class 3 state championship this past season, averaging 27.1 points, 12.2 rebounds, 4.4 assists, 3.3 steals and 1.6 blocks per game. The 2023 Class 3 Player of the Year, Jones nearly recorded a triple-double in the state final with 22 points, 11 rebounds and nine steals in an 86-65 win over Summit Christian Academy. A two-time Class 3 First Team All-State selection, he concluded his prep basketball career with 2,298 points and 1,106 rebounds.

The president of his school’s student council, Jones has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and football coach as well as a referee. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives on behalf of Life Changers Ministries. “Jadis Jones has been the best player in Southeast Missouri since he was 14 years old,” said Fred Garmon, head coach of Kennett High School. “He’s a different animal. A bad game for him is still 20 [points] and 10 [rebounds]—that’s how dangerous he is.”

Jones has maintained a weighted 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kyan Evans (2022-23, Staley High School), Luke Northweather (2021-22, Blair Oaks High School), Aminu Mohammed (2020-21, Greenwood Laboratory School) and Caleb Love (2019-20, Christian Brothers 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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