

**DON BOSCO PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Dylan Harper** of **Don Bosco Preparatory High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Harper is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Don Bosco Preparatory 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 Harper as New Jersey’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-6, 175-pound senior guard led the Ironmen to a 29-3 record and the Non-Public A state tournament championship this past season. Harper averaged 22.4 points, 5.7 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.4 steals per game, recording 26 points and nine boards in Don Bosco’s 56-29 win over Paul VI High School in the state final. A McDonald’s All-American Game selection, he will also be a member of Team USA at the Nike Hoop Summit in April. He’s ranked as the nation’s No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.

Harper has volunteered locally at soup kitchens in Newark and New York City, and he has donated his time as a youth basketball coach. “I have been coaching for 19 years and have seen my share of extraordinary high school basketball talents—Dylan Harper is at the top of the list,” said Dan Davis, head coach of St. Joseph High School. “He’s got size and athleticism, he can go by you or shoot it over you and you can’t speed him up. You can tell that the game has completely slowed down for him and his basketball IQ is off the charts.”

Harper has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Rutgers University 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.

Harper joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year D.J. Wagner (2022-23, 2021-22, & 2020-21, Camden High School) and Cliff Omoruyi (2019-20, Roselle Catholic 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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