

**NORTH MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Isaiah Evans of North Mecklenburg High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Evans is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Mecklenburg 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 Evans as North Carolina'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-7, 185-pound senior forward led the Vikings to a 30-3 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Evans averaged 27.5 points, 6.3 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.4 steals and 1.3 blocks per game, and he recorded 23 points and eight boards in the team's 57-47 win over previously unbeaten New Hanover High in the state final. A McDonald's All-American Game honoree, Evans was selected as a member of Team USA for the Nike Hoop Summit in April. He's ranked as the nation's No. 8 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.

Evans has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "What is there not to say about the great Isaiah Evans?," said Armard Moore, head coach of Mooresville High School. "He is a generational gift. This kid is the best high school basketball player I have ever coached against. He can shoot, he can get to his spots, he can pass, he can defend. The kid is really good."

Evans has maintained a weighted 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Evans joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jarin Stevenson (2022-23, Seaforth High School), Paul McNeil (2021-22, Richmond Senior High School), Terquavion Smith (2020-21, Farmville High School) and Jaden Bradley (2019-20, Cannon 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.

###