

**OWASSO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Jalen Montonati** of **Owasso High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Montonati is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Owasso 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 Montonati as Oklahoma'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, 180-pound sophomore power forward averaged 23.6 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.0 blocks this past season, leading the Rams (26-4) to the Class 6A championship—the program's first. Ranked as the nation's No. 11 prospect in the Class of 2026 by ESPN, Montonati was named MVP of the state tournament after scoring 34 points in an overtime, title-game win. He won a gold medal with Team USA at the 2023 FIBA U16 Men's AmeriCup and also made the Nike EYBL First Team last summer.

Montonati has volunteered locally as part of community events that serve younger kids and individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges. He's also donated his time by participating in an elementary school literacy outreach initiative, the Amazing Games, which are styled after the Special Olympics, and by coaching and mentoring youth basketball players. "Jalen Montonati is Oklahoma's only five-star prospect—and that's for good reason," said Jordan Davis of The Oklahoman. "He's only a sophomore, but has already staked his claim as one of the state's most electrifying players in history. His preeminent skillset was on full display in the Class 6A state championship game as he willed Owasso to a state title."

Montonati has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Montonati joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brandon Garrison (2022-23, Del City High School), Jai'Vion "JV" Seat (2021-22, Edmond Memorial High School), Trey Alexander (2020-21, Heritage Hall High School) and Bryce Thompson (2019-20, Booker T. Washington 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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