

**CASCADE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Austin Maurer** of **Cascade Christian High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Maurer is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cascade Christian 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 Maurer as Oregon’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 7-foot, 215-pound senior center led the Challengers to a 24-6 record and a third-straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Maurer averaged 28.7 points and 12.9 rebounds per game, and recorded 29 points and 18 boards in Cascade’s 78-59 win over Westside Christian Academy in the state final. Maurer also averaged 3.4 blocks, 3.3 assists and 1.5 steals this winter. The 2021-22 Class 3A State Player of the Year, he is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Maurer has volunteered locally as a middle school mentor and has donated his time as a youth basketball and football camp counselor. “Austin was really tough this year,” said Jared Pulver, head coach of St. Mary’s School. “At his height, it’s no surprise that he is dominant at the 3A level, but it didn’t appear that he was slowed down against higher competition, either. Cascade had quite a bit of talent. They might have won their conference without him. Might even have made the Final 8. They would not have won a state title without him.”

Maurer has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Grand Canyon University in Arizona 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.

Maurer joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jackson Shelstad (2022-23 & 2021-22, West Linn High School), Lamar Washington (2020-21, Jefferson High School) and Ben Gregg (2019-20, Clackamas 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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