NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 20, 2025)— In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Abdou Toure** of **Notre Dame High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Toure is the second Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Notre Dame High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Toure as Connecticut's best high school boys basketball player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Jayson Tatum (2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.) and Cooper Flagg (2023-24, Montverde Academy, Fl.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-6, 190-pound junior wing had led the Green Knights to a 24-2 record and a berth in Connecticut's Division I state championship game. Toure averaged 25.1 points and 6 rebounds through 25 games while shooting over 75 percent from the floor this winter. The 2023-24 GameTimeCT Player of the Year, he's ranked as the nation's No. 26 prospect in the Class of 2026 by both 247Sports and Rivals. Last summer, he scored 50 points for Guinea in a FIBA U-17 World Cup game, tying the event's single-game record.

Toure has volunteered locally as a youth basketball instructor with fifth and sixth graders. "To me, Abdou Toure is the clear frontrunner," said Mike Kohs, Xavier High School head coach. "He's having another unbelievable year and now has at least 17 Division I offers, including UConn. It's hard to beat that resumé."

Toure has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Toure joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Betsey (2023-24 & 2022-23, St. Thomas More) and Donovan Clingan (2021-22 & 2020-21, Bristol Central 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.