

**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Derek Dixon** of **Gonzaga College High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Dixon is the eleventh Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Dixon as District of Columbia'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.).

The 6-foot-5, 190-pound senior guard led the Eagles to a 29-5 record and the DCSAA Class AA tournament championship this past season. Dixon averaged 14.1 points, 3.1 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game while connecting on 38.5 percent of his 208 attempts from beyond the arc. The Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Player of the Year, he is ranked as the nation’s No. 44 recruit in the Class of 2025 by Rivals.com.

Dixon has volunteered locally serving meals to the homeless and as a youth basketball coach. “Derek’s shooting ability is elite,” said Glenn Farello, head coach of Paul VI High School. “He’s savvy, smart and doesn’t try to do too much. You must account for him at all times. He’s one of the few guys we never leave.”

Dixon has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of North Carolina 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.

Dixon joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Acaden Lewis (2023-24, Sidwell Friends School), Malik Mack (2022-23, St. John's College High School), Darren Buchanan (2021-22, Woodrow Wilson High School) and Quincy Allen (2020-21, Maret 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).