## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 20, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Cameron Boozer** of **Christopher Columbus High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Boozer is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christopher Columbus 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 Boozer as Florida's best high school boys basketball player, and he's also been selected as a finalist for the distinguished Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March. With his selection, **Boozer** 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-10, 240-pound senior power forward had led the Explorers to a 27-3 record and a berth in the Chipotle Nationals, scheduled for early April. The 2022-23 Gatorade National Player of the Year, Boozer averaged 22.6 points, 12.0 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 1.9 steals and 1.4 blocks through 30 games and led Columbus to a fourth straight Class 7A state championship. A Naismith Trophy Award semifinalist, Boozer is a McDonald's All-American Game selection and a member of the Team USA's Nike Hoop Summit squad. He is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2025 by 247Sports, Rivals.com and On3.com.

An accomplished cellist, Boozer has spent many years playing in a local orchestra. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Fellowship Church by assisting with youth services, including leading weekly bible study. He has also donated his time as a mathematics peer tutor, both in algebra and geometry. "What makes Cam special on the court is his ability to let the game come to him," said Steve Turner, head coach of Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C. "He is able to score it at all three levels and he never seems to get rattled. He has a great nextplay mentality."

Boozer has maintained a weighted 4.88 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Duke University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Two-time winner Boozer joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Players of the Year Cooper Flagg (2023-24, Montverde Academy), Dariq Whitehead (2021-22, Montverde Academy) and Caleb Houstan (2020-21, Montverde Academy), 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>.