WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 Jack McCaffery of West High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year. McCaffery is the fifth Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from West 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 McCaffery as Iowa'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-8, 200-pound senior forward averaged 21.2 points, 7.3 rebounds and three assists this past season, leading the Trojans (15-8) to the Substate tournament. McCaffery compiled a true shooting percentage of 55.8 percent and shot 81.7 percent from the line this winter. Ranked as the nation's No. 86 recruit in his class by ESPN, he also ranks No. 1 in Iowa according to Prep Hoops.

McCaffery has volunteered locally with Best Buddies, serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and has spent many hours coaching youth players at a variety of camps and clinics. He has also donated his time extensively on behalf of the Coaches vs. Cancer program. "Jack has always been a player who makes his teammates better," said Hank Huddleson of Martin Bros Select AAU basketball. "He's an extremely talented individual and has so many tools in his toolbag that he just finds a way to make an impact."

McCaffery has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Butler 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.

McCaffery joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Curtis 'CJ' Stinson, Jr. (2023-24, Valley High School), Omaha Biliew (2022-23, Waukee High School), Tamin Lipsey (2021-22, Ames High School) and Tucker DeVries (2020-21, Waukee 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade. Facebook at facebook.com/Gatorade. Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.