

GREAT CROSSING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Malachi Moreno** of **Great Crossing High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Moreno is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Great Crossing 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 Moreno as Kentucky'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 7-foot-1, 240-pound senior center led the Warhawks to a 30-4 record and a berth in the state semifinals this past season. Moreno averaged 21.6 points, 14.9 rebounds, 3.7 blocks and 3.6 assists while shooting 71.5 percent from the floor. The McDonald’s All-American is ranked as the nation’s No. 23 recruit in the Class of 2025 by ESPN.

Moreno has volunteered locally tutoring special needs children and reading to elementary school students. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. “Malachi has gradually developed into a player that can dominate many facets of a game on both ends of the floor,” said Tim Glenn, head coach at Scott County High School. “Defensively, the paint was off limits for opponents. He has an uncanny nose for defending and/or blocking a shot—one of those instincts where you either got it or you don't.”

Moreno has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Kentucky 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.

Moreno joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Players of the Year Travis Perry (2023-24 & 2022-23, Lyon County High School), Reed Sheppard (2021-22, North Laurel High School) and Sam Vinson (2020-21, Highlands 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](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.