

**CATS ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Jaylen Harrell** of **CATS Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Harrell is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from CATS Academy.

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 Harrell as Massachusetts'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-6, 200-pound senior wing led the Griffins to a 28-7 record and a runner-up finish in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Class AA tournament this past season. Harrell averaged 22.1 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.2 assists per game. The 2023-24 Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year, he was a two-time First Team Class AA selection and a First Team All-New England Basketball League selection this winter. He is ranked as the No. 85 prospect in the Class of 2025 by 247Sports and New England’s No. 4 prospect in the Class of 2025 by the New England Recruiting Report.

Harrell has volunteered locally at the Tobin Community Center in Roxbury. “He had them playing at a high level,” said Jeff Gore, head coach of Brewster Academy’s high school team. “He reminds me of (former Celtics player) Antoine Walker. He can go inside, outside, has a good body and plays a physical style. He has performed well against the best teams, and that’s what I look at.”

Harrell has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Providence College 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.

Two-time winner Harrell joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Players of the Year AJ Dybantsa (2022-23, St. Sebastian's School), TJ Power (2021-22, Worcester Academy) and Kyle Filipowski (2020-21, Wilbraham & Monson 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 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.