

**ORONO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Nolan Groves of Orono High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Groves is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Orono 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 Groves as Minnesota’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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-5, 205-pound senior guard had led the Spartans (22-7) to the 3A Section 6 title and a berth in the 3A state tournament. Groves, the state’s leading scorer, averaged 34.1 points, 8.5 rebounds, 6.0 assists and 3.0 steals through 29 games. The Metro West Conference Player of the Year, he scored 40 or more points in nine games this season, including a season-high 57 in a win over St. Louis Park.

Groves has volunteered locally as a Special Olympics basketball coach. He has also donated his time as a trainer for youth basketball players. “Nolan seems to be the ultimate competitor and teammate,” said Nick Hayes, head coach at Chaska High School. “He’s often face-guarded and still finds a way to get to the rim and score efficiently. Anytime we tried to trap him, he would seem to find an open teammate and he just kept making the right play, over and over.”

Groves has maintained a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to attend Yale University, where he will play basketball, beginning 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.

Groves joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jackson McAndrew (2023-24, Wayzata High School), Nolan Winter (2022-23, Lakeville North High School), Tre Holloman (2021-22, Cretin-Derham Hall) and Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha 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](http://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://x.com/Gatorade).