WEBSTER GROVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Scottie Adkinson of Webster Groves High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Adkinson is the second Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Webster Groves 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 Adkinson as Missouri'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-3, 180-pound sophomore guard had led the Statesmen to a 24-5 record and a berth in the Class 5A state quarterfinals. Adkinson averaged 24 points. 5.6 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.4 steals through 29 games, including shooting 61.6 percent from the field and 40.6 percent from beyond the arc. A Nike Elite 100 underclass selection, he's ranked as the nation's No. 26 player in the Class of 2027 by On3 and the state's No. 1 recruit in his class by Prep Hoops Missouri.

An avid sneaker collector, Adkinson has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and instructor, accruing more than 50 high school community service hours. "Scottie is a high-major player," said Austin Kirby, head coach at Eureka High School. "He will be the best guard to come out of St. Louis since [2010-11 Gatorade National Player of the Year] Bradley Beal."

Adkinson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Adkinson joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jadis Jones (2023-24, New Madrid County Central High School), Kyan Evans (2022-23, Staley High School), Luke Northweather (2021-22, Blair Oaks High School) and Aminu Mohammed (2020-21, Greenwood Laboratory 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 studentathletes, 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>.