BREWSTER ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Ebuka Okorie** of **Brewster Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Okorie is the sixth Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Brewster 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 Okorie as New Hampshire'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-2, 175-pound senior guard had led the Bobcats to a 27-4 record and an invitation to the Chipotle High School Basketball Nationals scheduled for early April. Okorie averaged 13.1 points per game this past season, shooting 54.5 percent from the floor and 38.5 percent from beyond the arc. A third-team Nike EYBL Scholastic Conference selection, he's ranked as the No. 11 prospect in New England in the Class of 2025 by the New England Recruiting Report.

Okorie has volunteered locally with the Thank You Project, a nonprofit that raises money to supply clean drinking water and educational scholarships to citizens of Nigeria. He has also donated his time at a local soup kitchen. "Okorie is a combo guard and a very consistent shooter," said Jason Smith, head coach at Brewster Academy. "He impacts winning and his shooting percentages jump out at you. He was very close to being a 50-40-90 (shooting percentage) guy for us. He's going to be a very good player at the next level."

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

Okorie joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Players of the Year Nojus Indrusaitis (2023-24, Brewster Academy), Tyler Bike (2022-23, Trinity High School), Matas Buzelis (2021-22, Brewster Academy) and Alex Karaban (2020-21, New Hampton 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.