

**BLAIR ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Deron Rippey** of **Blair Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Rippey is the third Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blair 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 Rippey as New Jersey’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-2, 180-pound junior point guard led the Bucs to a 24-4 record and the Prep Open State Tournament title as well as the Mid-Atlantic Prep tournament championship this past season. Rippey averaged 16.2 points, 5.3 assists, 4.9 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game, compiling 16 points, 13 boards and nine assists in Blair’s 88-75 win over the Patrick School in the Prep Open final. A Naismith Trophy Award Underclassmen Honorable Mention All-American selection, he’s ranked as the nation’s No. 19 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports.

Near his family home in Brooklyn, Rippey has volunteered with the GFB Develop Toy Drive in addition to donating his time at a food kitchen and homeless shelter. He has served as a youth basketball coach. “Ron Ron is a multi-faceted guard who can beat you by calling his own number or by setting up a teammate,” said Matt McKay, Jr., founder and CEO of Pro Insight. “He’s also got standout athletic skills that show up at both ends.”

Rippey has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Rippey joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dylan Harper (2023-24, Don Bosco Prep) and D.J. Wagner (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Camden 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.