

**REIDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Dionte Neal** of **Reidsville High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Neal is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Reidsville 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 Neal as North Carolina'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 5-foot-9, 150-pound junior point guard led the Rams to a 31-0 record and a second straight Class 2A state championship this past season. Neal averaged 22.8 points, 9.1 assists, 7.0 steals and 4.9 rebounds per game, including 24 points, five boards and four assists in Reidsville’s 71-54 win over Northwood High School in the state final, the team’s 60th consecutive victory. A Naismith Trophy Award Honorable Mention All-American, Neal connected on 61.5 percent of his 3-point shots (72-of-117) and 88.1 percent of his free throws (140-of-159). He concluded his junior year with 1,870 points and 895 assists in his prep basketball career.

Neal has volunteered locally at the Reidsville Family YMCA and on behalf of the Reidsville Recreation Department. “Dionte Neal is a great player and an impossible matchup,” said Carter Phillips, head coach of West Stokes High School. “He can shoot the three with range at a high rate, can use his quickness to get by anyone and he’s a great defender.”

Neal has maintained a weighted 3.69 GPA 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.

Neal joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaiah Evans (2023-24, North Mecklenburg High School), Jarin Stevenson (2022-23, Seaforth High School), Paul McNeil (2021-22, Richmond Senior High School) and Terquavion Smith (2020-21, Farmville 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.

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