

## **OWASSO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Jalen Montonati of Owasso High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Montonati is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Owasso 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 Montonati as Oklahoma'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-7, 185-pound junior power forward averaged 23.3 points, 6.0 rebounds and three assists this past season, leading the Rams (24-5) to the Class 6A state quarterfinals. Montonati is the state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year and is ranked as the nation's No. 20 prospect in his class by ESPN. The 2024 Tulsa World State Player Of The Year and a 2024 Oklahoman Super 5 First Team selection, he will enter his senior year with more than 1,500 points in his prep basketball career.

Selected to be part of the Owasso Athletic Leadership Council, Montonati serves as part of a group of student-athletes who explore ways to improve themselves, their teams and their community. He has volunteered locally during the summer by helping to host the Amazing Games, which are modeled after the Special Olympics. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach and, in support of a recent fundraising initiative, he visited an elementary classroom to share his insights on the importance of hard work and dedication. "Jalen is a long, silky smooth shooter who has the ability to go to the midpost," said Lou Dawkins, head coach at Muskogee High School. "It's hard to believe he still has one more year of high school left. I can't wait to see him in college, especially when he adds 20 pounds of muscle to his frame. His speed and agility will only benefit from that to propel to the next level."

Montonati has maintained a 3.6 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year 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.

Two-time winner Montonati joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brandon Garrison (2022-23, Del City High School), Jai'Vion "JV" Seat (2021-22, Edmond Memorial High School) and Trey Alexander (2020-21, Heritage Hall 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](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).

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