ST. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Jordan Ellerbee** of **St. Joseph's Preparatory School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Ellerbee is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph's Preparatory 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 Ellerbee as Pennsylvania'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-3, 180-pound senior guard averaged 16.3 points, 6.4 rebounds, 5.2 assists and 1.6 steals per game this past season, leading the Hawks (18-6) to the Philadelphia Catholic League Tournament semifinals. The PCL's Most Valuable Player honoree, Ellerbee is a two-time First Team All-PCL selection. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,012 points.

Ellerbee organized and executed a sneaker drive for Philadelphia-area children in need. He has volunteered locally as part of Thanksgiving food drives and as a youth basketball coach and camp counselor. "Jordan plays with so much passion that it resonates throughout the team," said Jason Harrigan, head coach of St. Joseph's Preparatory School. "He is an excellent defender who always asks to guard the other team's best player."

Ellerbee has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Florida Gulf Coast University 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.

Ellerbee joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jalil Bethea (2023-24, Archbishop Wood High School), Rob Wright (2022-23, Neumann-Goretti High School), Dereck Lively (2021-22, Westtown School) and Stevie Mitchell (2020-21, Wilson 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 <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>.