

**LA SALLE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Liam Simpson** of **La Salle Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Simpson is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from La Salle 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 Simpson as Rhode Island'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-6, 210-pound senior forward led the Rams (27-2) to the Division 1 tournament championship as well as the state title this past season. Simpson averaged 12.1 points, 15.2 rebounds and 5.4 assists while shooting 62.8 percent from the floor through 27 games. He scored 21 points and pulled down 18 rebounds en route to earning MVP honors in the state final. He was also named First Team All-State by the Rhode Island Basketball Coaches Association as well as First Team All-Division 1.

Simpson has volunteered locally as a “buddy” for special needs basketball players and at a summer camp for kids with special needs. He has also donated his time as a referee for youth basketball games. “At 6-foot-6, Simpson brings up the ball, makes plays and dishes out assists—his impact on the game is absolutely insane,” said Jeremy Wilner, head coach at Lincoln High School. “He also defends [the other] team’s best player, no matter if they are a point guard or a center.”

Simpson has maintained an A average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Simpson joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Players of the Year Wayne McNamara (2023-24, Lincoln High School), Azmar Abdullah (2022-23, Bishop Hendricken High School), Denzel Correia (2021-22, Rocky Hill Country Day School) and Matt Constant (2020-21, St. Andrew's 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).