

**WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH 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 **Josh Leonard of Wilson High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Leonard is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilson 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 Leonard as South 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 6-foot-7, 230-pound sophomore wing averaged 21.7 points, 10.1 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game this past season, leading the Tigers (21-9) to the Class AAAA state tournament semifinals. Also the 2025 AAAA Player of the Year, Leonard is ranked as the nation's No. 8 recruit in his class by Rivals. He shot 59.1 percent from inside the arc, 39.2 percent on 3-point attempts and compiled a true shooting percentage of 61.0 this winter.

Leonard has volunteered locally on behalf of the Manna House soup kitchen and food pantry. He has also donated his time to holiday season toy drives for children in need in addition to making a goodwill visit to the OSF Children's Hospital while playing in a tournament in Illinois last Thanksgiving. "Josh is a top-ranked prospect who lives up to that daily and carries the load for his program," said DJ Kelly, Marion High School head coach. "He played well against out-of-state teams this past season and dominated South Carolina playing a tough schedule."

Leonard has maintained a weighted 4.1 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Leonard joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Cam Scott (2023-24 & 2022-23, Lexington High School), Gregory "GG" Jackson (2021-22, Ridge View High School) and Bryce McGowens (2020-21, Legacy Early College 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.