## ENSWORTH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Jonathan Sanderson** of **Ensworth School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Sanderson is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ensworth 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 Sanderson as Tennessee'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, 190-pound junior guard averaged 24.0 points, 6.2 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.8 steals per game this past season, leading the Tigers (20-11) to the Division II, Class AA state semifinals. A finalist for the Division II-AA Mr. Basketball award, Sanderson was a First Team Division I All-State selection as a sophomore at Saline (Mich.) High School. He's ranked as the nation's No. 55 recruit in the Class of 2026 by 247Sports.

Sanderson has volunteered locally as a Bible Study leader and as a youth basketball coach. "Jon clearly loves to compete as he brings toughness, grit and a high motor to the table," said Matt McKay, Jr., founder and CEO of Pro Insight. "All that is complemented by his positional versatility, playmaking prowess and range-shooting ability"

Sanderson has maintained a 3.39 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.

Sanderson joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Tanner (2023-24 & 2022-23, Brentwood Academy) and Brandon Miller (2021-22 & 2020-21, Cane Ridge 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>.