

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Eli Sancomb** of **Central Catholic High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Sancomb is the second Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Catholic 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 Sancomb as West Virginia'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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-4, 185-pound junior guard had led the Maroon Knights (21-2) to a berth in the Class AA state tournament. Sancomb averaged 26 points, 9.9 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 2.6 steals through 23 games and shot 83.9 percent from the free throw line through 23 games. He finished with 22 points, 11 rebounds, eight assists and just one turnover in Central Catholic’s 64-46 win over Ravenswood in the Region 1 final.

Sancomb has volunteered locally as one of the founding members of the St. Vincent de Paul Mattress Movers, a group of six boys who deliver new mattresses to those in need. He’s also donated his time as a “buddy” for athletes with special needs through the YMCA, in addition to participating in the Central Catholic High School canned food drive, picking up donations and delivering bags of food. “Eli is a do-it-all guy,” said Dave Tallman, head coach at Morgantown High School. “He is 6-foot-4, but brings the ball up the floor. He’s very aggressive and he’s an elite scorer.”

Sancomb has maintained a B average 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.

Sancomb joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Sharron Young (2023-24, Morgantown High School), Eli Allen (2022-23, James Monroe High School) and Isaac McKneely (2021-22 & 2020-21, Poca 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 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.