



PRESS RELEASE
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Mitchell named Gatorade Connecticut Player of the Year

WOODSTOCK, CT (March 15, 2019) – The Woodstock Academy Gold prep basketball senior Tre Mitchell was named the Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year on Friday.

“It’s just an honor to be named as such. There are just so many names that are just so big time, like in the NBA and all over the world, who have been named Gatorade Player of the Year. It’s just nice to be recognized for all the hard work both on and off the court,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell has played for The Woodstock Academy Gold prep basketball team in its inaugural two seasons and has been the cornerstone of a program that has posted 73 wins against just seven losses. It has finished in the top five of the prep basketball rankings nationally in each of those two years.

Mitchell is originally from the Pittsburgh area but has been a resident of Woodstock for the past two years. The 6-foot-9-inch forward scored over 1,000 points and grabbed over 700 rebounds in a Woodstock Academy uniform over the past two years. Mitchell was named Power 5 Conference Player of the Year and tournament Most Valuable Player in each of the last two years. He is also a McDonald’s All-American nominee.

“You’re talking about a kid who came in at 33 percent body fat and 265 pounds. He’s currently at 13 percent body fat, 230 pounds. He’s upped his vertical leap eight inches. He’s transformed his entire body,” said Woodstock Academy prep basketball coach Tony Bergeron. Mitchell is Bergeron’s second Gatorade POY in his 19 years of coaching and working with 170 scholarship players. Tyreke Evans, who now plays for the NBA’s Indiana Pacers, was the first.

“I love it because it’s a tri-award,” Bergeron said. “You’re talking about an elite level athlete who has to do it academically and has to be of the utmost character. To get it is terrific.” Mitchell has grown not only as basketball player, but as a person.

“As I said in the Letter of Recommendation (to Gatorade) about Tre, which I was honored to write, he says ‘Hi’ to you every day. He acknowledges you when he walks by you in the hallway. He’s a nice human being. It’s great that he has this wonderful athletic talent, but most important to me as Head of School (at The Woodstock Academy) is that we have produced a fine young man who, no matter what the future holds, will be successful because he has those skill sets,” Chris Sandford said.

Mitchell said the decision to come to The Woodstock Academy proved to be the right one. “It’s been an excellent opportunity for me. Every single day, I get in the gym and I’m constantly pushed. There is never a day where you relax. You don’t have time off. You are always being pushed to be a better player,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell had considered re-classifying to the Class of 2020 and re-enrolling at The Woodstock Academy for a post-grad year. He has since re-considered and will remain in the Class of 2019.

He has whittled down his college choices to six; Providence College, UMass, Indiana University, Syracuse, Virginia Tech, and Georgia Tech. He has not made an official visit to any of those schools.

"I'm not completely sure," Mitchell said when asked when he planned to make a decision. "I'm not going to put a timeline on it because anything can happen. It's just when I get that feeling that it's the right school after I go on these visits. That will be it."

The Woodstock Academy is an independent, day and boarding, co-educational, college preparatory high school for grades 9–12 and postgraduates located in Woodstock, CT. The mission of The Woodstock Academy is to prepare all students by providing diverse opportunities through a rigorous curriculum and a variety of programs in order to cultivate the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and global citizens.

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