

**LAPWAI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kase Wynott** of **Lapwai High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Wynott is the second Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lapwai High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Wynott as Idaho’s best high school boys basketball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes LeBron James (2002-03 & 2001-02, St. Vincent – St. Mary High School, Ohio), Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.) and Jayson Tatum (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.).

The 6-foot-6, 190-pound senior small forward averaged 36 points, 13.9 rebounds and 9.1 assists this past season, leading the Wildcats (25-2) to the Class 1A state title. Wynott also averaged 3.0 blocks and 2.9 assists in a campaign that culminated with state tournament MVP honors. Ranked as the state’s No. 4 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepHoops, he concluded his prep career as a three-time state champion, a four-time First Team All-State selection, the state’s career scoring leader (2,962 points) and the state’s single-game scoring leader (68).

Wynott has volunteered locally as part of an Adopt-a-Highway initiative and hosted a food/clothing drive to support the homeless population of the Lewis and Clarkston Valley. He has also donated his time generously to Lapwai youth as part of an after-school program for elementary school students in addition to coaching and officiating basketball for youth players. “Kase is a kid that puts his team and community first,” said Ivory Miles Williams, head coach of Rocky Mountain High School. “He has grade school kids following him to the gym at 6 am prior to school because they want to be just like him when they grow up. Lapwai is a community on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation and has a rich history with sports, especially basketball. If you’re good and leave a legacy, you become a Lapwai Legend. No doubt, Kase has left a legacy that’s bigger than most. What he and his team achieved in four years will be remembered forever and it’ll be very hard to top.”

Wynott has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Utah State University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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.

Wynott joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Blake Buchanan (2022-23, Lake City High School), Titus Yearout (2021-22, Lapwai High School), Brody Rowbury (2020-21, Meridian High School) and Austin Bolt (2019-20, Borah 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, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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