

**SHEYENNE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Tommy Ahneman** of **Sheyenne High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Ahneman is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sheyenne 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 Ahneman as North Dakota'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-10, 235-pound junior power forward averaged 20.3 points, 13.3 rebounds, 2.2 blocks and 1.9 assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (21-6) to the Class AA state title. The 2024 NDHSAA Class AA State Tournament MVP, Ahneman recorded 28 points, 17 rebounds and two blocks in the championship game. Ranked as the nation's No. 315 recruit in the Class of 2025 by PrepHoops, he will enter his senior campaign as West Fargo Sheyenne's career rebounding leader with 540.

Ahneman has volunteered locally by competing in the ABLE Games, a crossfit competition for people of all abilities. He is an active member of both the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Holy Cross Catholic Church. "Tommy was a fierce opponent on the court this season—an elite scorer on offense and intimidating on defense," said Nate Altoff, assistant coach at West Fargo High School. "He made an immediate impact every time he entered a game, often drawing double teams on offense and then guarding the other team's best post player. He was a big part of his team's state championship run and he's a great example of where hard work, dedication and a great attitude will get you."

Ahneman has maintained a 3.33 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 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.

Ahneman joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Darik Disette (2022-23, Minot High School), Joe Hurlburt (2021-22 & 2020-21, Enderlin High School) and Boden Skunberg (2019-20, Jamestown 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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