

**CHEYENNE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 **Joe Sawyer** of **Cheyenne Central High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Sawyer is the first Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cheyenne Central 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 Sawyer as Wyoming’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-3, 155-pound senior wing averaged 15.5 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.0 steals this past season, leading the Indians (25-3) to the Class 4A state title. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Sawyer compiled a true shooting percentage of 61.9 this winter. He recorded 19 points, seven rebounds and three assists in the state championship game and was named the Class 4A Player of the Year.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Sawyer has volunteered locally as an elementary school mentor and basketball coach. He has also donated his time on behalf of Cheyenne Central Basketball Camps. “Joe Sawyer is a very unassuming player and I think his greatest attribute is to dominate a game without really sticking out,” said Randy Roden, head coach of Kelly Walsh High School. “There are games where his stat lines jump off the page, but more often than not, he has a [productive but not eye-popping] stat line. The thing that sticks out to me when I scout Cheyenne Central is how easy it is to see he’s their best player. The average fan might not agree, but as a coach, I see a kid that does every little thing all the time at both ends of the floor. He is extremely skilled, but he doesn’t demand the ball to show those skills. He’s a player without a weakness who makes his team and teammates better.”

Sawyer has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Sawyer joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Players of the Year Parker Paxton (2022-23, Riverton High School), Deegan Williams (2021-22, Thunder Basin High School), and Sam Lecholot (2020-21 & 2019-20, Sheridan 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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