

**WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 21, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kon Knueppel II** of **Wisconsin Lutheran High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Knueppel II is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wisconsin Lutheran 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 Knueppel II as Wisconsin'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-8, 218-pound senior wing led the Hawks to a 30-0 record and the Division 2 state championship this past season. Knueppel averaged 25.9 points, 8.6 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 1.1 blocks per game. Ranked as the nation's No. 12 recruit in the Class of 2024 by Rivals, Knueppel recorded a points-assists (11-11) double-double in the title-game win over three-time defending state champion Pewaukee High School. The state's 2024 Mr. Basketball, he will graduate as his school's career leader in points (1,978), rebounds (808) and assists (398).

A member of the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, Knueppel is a part of both Wisconsin Lutheran's Student Council and Hope Squad. Also a participant in his school's Civil Rights Tour and the Wisconsin Academy of Global Education and Training Mental Health Summit, he serves in the Viking Christian Leaders Academy and has donated his time as a youth coach with Monfre Basketball. "Kon is a very special player," said Ryan Johnsen, head coach of Greendale High School. "He impacts the game in all facets and has a tremendous ability to make all of his teammates better. The other special part about 'K2' is that he's an ever better person. He's humble, selfless and truly cares about others. He's going to have an incredible career beyond high school."

Knueppel has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Knueppel II joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Players of the Year Milan Momcilovic (2022-23, Pewaukee High School), Seth Trimble (2021-22, Menomonee Falls High School), Brandin Podziemski (2020-21, St. John's Northwestern Academies), and Patrick Baldwin (2019-20, Sussex Hamilton 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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