

**WAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 15, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Omaha Biliew** of **Waukee High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Biliew is the second Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waukee High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Biliew as Iowa's best high school boys basketball player. Biliew joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Chet Holmgren (2020-21, Minnehaha Academy, Minn.), Trae Young (2016-17, Norman North High School, Ok.), Jayson Tatum (2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.), and Karl-Anthony Towns (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-8, 210-pound senior forward averaged 22.1 points and 9.9 rebounds this past season, leading the Warriors (23-3) to the Class 4A state semifinals. Biliew also averaged 2.5 assists, 2.1 blocks and 1.4 steals per game. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, he was selected to be a member of the Nike Hoop Summit Team USA squad. Biliew was a First Team All-State selection as a sophomore before spending his junior year at Link Academy in Branson, Mo. He's ranked as the nation's No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2023 by ESPN.com.

Biliew has volunteered locally for Meals from the Heartland and on behalf of a food bank. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach and youth mentor. "A rare combination of strength, power and skill, Biliew has elite ability to play low-post defense, rebound, block shots and take charges," said Paul Biancardi, National Recruiting Director for ESPN. "He's a tremendous lob threat as well as a screen and roll target, but also, his 3-point point shot has developed and he's become a viable threat to be a short, straight-line driver. What makes him special is he cares about his teammates and plays with big heart."

Biliew has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Iowa 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.

Biliew joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tamin Lipsey (2021-22, Ames High School), Tucker DeVries (2020-21, Waukee High School), Bowen Born (2019-20, Norwalk High School), and D.J. Carton (2018-19, Bettendorf High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.