

**BUTTE CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Dougie Peoples** of **Butte Central Catholic High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Peoples is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Butte Central Catholic 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 Peoples as Montana’s best high school boys basketball player. Peoples 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-5, 165-pound senior guard had led the Maroons (23-4) to the Montana Class A state semifinals, averaging 24.8 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.2 steals per game through 27 contests. Peoples broke the Butte city record for single-season points scored (1,404). He also owns Butte Central Catholic’s single-game record for points scored in a game (44).

Peoples has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and on behalf of his church parish. He also serves as Butte Central Catholic’s student body president and is a member of the National Honor Society. “He is one of the most unique players I’ve seen over the last few years,” said Hamilton head coach Travis Blome. “He can score in a variety of ways and has been the hardest person to defend in my coaching tenure.”

Peoples has maintained an A average 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.

Peoples joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brayden Koch (2021-22, Capital High School), Drew Wyman (2020-21, Great Falls High School), and Rollie Worster (2019-20 & 2018-19, Hellgate 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.

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