

**BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Josiah Dotzler** of **Bellevue West High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Dotzler is the fourth Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bellevue West 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 Dotzler as Nebraska's best high school boys basketball player. Dotzler 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-3, 180-pound senior guard had led the Thunderbirds to a 27-0 record and a berth in the Class A state semifinals. Dotzler averaged 16.3 points, 5.1 assists, 4.2 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game through 27 games. A 2022 First Team All-State selection, he entered the state semifinals with 1,325 points in his prep basketball career. His brother, Josh, was the state's Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year in the 2004-05 season.

A member of his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Dotzler has volunteered extensively with Abide Omaha, a non-profit devoted to revitalizing the inner city. "Josiah is a heck of a ballplayer—it feels like he's been around for 10 years," said Mike Etzelmiller, head coach of Millard North High. "He has been very consistent all year long, always able to get to the rim and is strong enough to finish with contact. He is a tremendous basketball player, but to me seems like an even better teammate."

Dotzler has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Creighton 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.

Dotzler joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaac Traudt (2021-22, Grand Island Senior High School), Hunter Sallis (2020-21, Millard North High School), Chucky Hepburn (2019-20, Bellevue West High School), and Akol Arop (2018-19, Creighton Prep), 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.