

**VOLCANO VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 **Kenyon Aguino** of **Volcano Vista High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Aguino is the second Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Volcano Vista 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 Aguino as New Mexico's best high school boys basketball player. Aguino 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-7, 200-pound sophomore forward had led the Hawks (28-1) to a berth in the state championship game, averaging 19 points, nine rebounds and three assists per game through 28 contests. Aguino was named First Team All-District 1 and recorded a double-double in each of the first two rounds of the state tournament. He also sank the game-winning basket in the semifinals.

Aguino has volunteered locally with the Rio Grande Down Syndrome Network, assisting with cleanup after the organization's annual Buddy Walk fundraiser. He also has donated his time as a coach and mentor at the Volcano Vista Youth Basketball Camp. "His [basketball] IQ is off the charts and he can impact the game without scoring," said Danny Brown, head coach at Sandia High. "He is a two-way player and seems to take pride in that. He's long and strong, moves very well, just as good on the perimeter as he is on the block. He is a total mismatch for anyone."

Aguino has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Aguino joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Players of the Year Ja'Kwon Hill (2021-22, Volcano Vista High School), William "Deuce" Benjamin (2020-21, Las Cruces High School), Joziah Ramos (2019-20, Atrisco Heritage Academy High School), and David Patterson (2018-19, Rio Rancho 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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