

**NEUMANN-GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Rob Wright** of **Neumann-Goretti High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Wright is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Neumann-Goretti 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 Wright as Pennsylvania’s best high school boys basketball player. Wright 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-1, 155-pound junior guard had led the Saints to a 22-3 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament. Wright, who helped Neumann-Goretti to the state title last year, averaged 22.2 points, 5.0 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 2.4 steals per game through 25 games. The 2022 Class 4A Player of the Year, he was the MVP of both the 2023 Iolani Classic in Hawaii and the Spalding Hoophall Classic in Massachusetts. He’s ranked as the nation’s No. 45 recruit in the Class of 2024 by ESPN.com.

Wright has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and homeless shelter in addition to donating his time as a youth basketball coach. “Rob gets scouted night in and night out, double-teamed, best defender on him, you name it,” said Francis Bowe, head coach of Archbishop Carroll High. “We’ve all tried to stop him. He plays with poise, doesn’t show off, and from the guard perspective, he can’t be stopped.”

Wright has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at Baylor University beginning in the fall of 2024.

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.

Wright joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dereck Lively (2021-22, Westtown School), Stevie Mitchell (2020-21, Wilson High School), Ethan Morton (2019-20, Butler Area Senior High School), and Oscar Tshiebwe (2018-19, Kennedy Catholic 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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