

**DAKOTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Isaac Bruns** of **Dakota Valley High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Bruns is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dakota Valley 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 Bruns as South Dakota’s best high school boys basketball player. Bruns 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-4, 180-pound senior guard led the Panthers to a 23-0 record and the No. 1 seed in South Dakota’s Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin next week. Entering the postseason, Bruns is averaging 26.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, connecting on 43 percent of his 3-point attempts. PrepHoops.com ranks him as South Dakota’s No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2023 and he’s the anchor of a Dakota Valley program that set a Class A state record with a running winning streak of 50 consecutive games.

Bruns has volunteered locally as a Sunnybrook Community Church youth group member and has donated his time as both a summer basketball camp volunteer and with the VFW youth baseball program. He’s also a member of the National Honor Society. “He’s a great kid, great student, does everything right off the court,” said Dakota Valley head coach Jason Kleis. “He’s a flat-out scorer and a great defender—he’s everything a coach could ask for.”

Bruns has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Bruns joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kalen Garry (2021-22, De Smet High School) and Matthew Mors (2020-21, 2019-20, & 2018-19, Yankton 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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