

**RIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 **Parker Paxton** of **Riverton High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Paxton is the first Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverton 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 Paxton as Wyoming's best high school boys basketball player. Paxton 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.).

The 5-foot-8, 145-pound junior guard led the Wolverines (19-6) to Wyoming's 4A West regional title game this past season. Paxton averaged 18.2 points and 3.5 rebounds per game entering the regional final and he led the state in regular-season scoring in Class 4A. He's also a three-time Wyoming state individual champion as a golfer.

An active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Paxton has volunteered locally on behalf of Cornerstone Church. He's also a National Honor Society inductee. "Parker has displayed excellence on the court," said Campbell County High School head coach Bubba Hladky. "He can score well and gets his teammates involved. Every time I've seen him play, he demonstrates a competitive spirit and great sportsmanship. If I had to pick a player to start my team from anybody in Wyoming, I would pick Parker."

Paxton has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall and has made a verbal commitment to play golf on scholarship at the University of Colorado beginning 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.

Paxton joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Players of the Year Deegan Williams (2021-22, Thunder Basin High School), Sam Lecholot (2020-21 & 2019-20, Sheridan High School), and Erik Oliver (2018-19, Cheyenne East 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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