OWYHEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 20, 2025)— In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Boden 'Bodey' Howell** of **Owyhee High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Howell is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Owyhee High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Howell as Idaho's best high school boys basketball player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Jayson Tatum (2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16, Chaminade College Preparatory School, Mo.) and Cooper Flagg (2023-24, Montverde Academy, Fl.).

The 6-foot-5, 185-pound senior point guard led the Storm (23-4) to the Class 6A state title this past season, averaging 18.1 points, 4.0 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game. Howell did not lose a game to an in-state opponent in his prep career since moving to Idaho from Oregon two years ago. Ranked as the No. 1 recruit in Idaho by 247Sports, he was named the 2025 Class 6A Tournament MVP.

Howell has volunteered locally on behalf of Meridian Food Bank. He has also donated his time as an instructor at youth basketball camps. "Bodey is a leader in our school and an elite energy-giver," said Owyhee head coach Andy Harrington. "He has sacrificed his personal statistics to play at a championship level and all he's done is win."

Howell has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Rice 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Howell joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kase Wynott (2023-24, Lapwai High School), Blake Buchanan (2022-23, Lake City High School), Titus Yearout (2021-22, Lapwai High School) and Brody Rowbury (2020-21, Meridian High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.