

**SHAWNEE MISSION NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Keaton Wagler** of **Shawnee Mission Northwest High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Wagler is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shawnee Mission Northwest 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 Wagler as Kansas'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-6, 190-pound senior guard led the Cougars to a 22-3 record and a second straight Class 6A state championship this past season. Wagler averaged 18.5 points, 6.7 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 1.8 steals, including 17 points and 10 boards in a 63-56 win over Olathe North High School in the state final. The 2024 Class 6A Player of the Year, he was the 2025 Sunflower League Player of the Year and he’s ranked as the nation’s No. 144 recruit in the Class of 2025 by 247Sports.

Wagler has volunteered locally as an elementary school aide, and he has donated his time as a youth basketball coach and camp counselor. “Every time they need a big play, Keaton makes it,” said Brett McFall, head coach of Shawnee Mission South High School. “Every time they struggle, he lifts them up. He also really impacts the game on the defensive end. He always comes through for them.”

Wagler has maintained a weighted 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at the University of Illinois 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.

Wagler joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year TJ Williams (2023-24, Wichita Heights High School), Matas Buzelis (2022-23, Sunrise Christian Academy), Gradey Dick (2021-22, Sunrise Christian Academy) and Kennedy Chandler (2020-21, Sunrise Christian Academy), 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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