

ATHLETES NAME: Drake Powell

SCHOOL: Northwood High School

CLASSIFICATION: 3A

SPORTS: Basketball

NOMINATOR: Matt Brown

NOMINATOR EMAIL: msbrown@chatham.k12.nc.us

NOMINATOR SCHOOL: Northwood High School

NOMINATOR POSITION: Head Men's Basketball Coach

ATHLETES QUALIFICATIONS:

2020-2021-Freshman Year

All Conference Team

Led Team to an East Regional Championship

Led Team to a State Championship Runner Up

2022-2023-Junior Year

HAS A 3.420 GPA

1st Team All State

1st Team All District

All Conference Player of the Year

All Conference Team

MVP Conference Tournament

MOP John Wall

1,000 Pt Scorer as a Junior

Led team to an East Regional Championship

Helped lead the Team to a State Championship Runner Up

UNC Commit

57% FG

19 Points Per Game

7 reb per game

4 assist per game

2 Steal per game

2 blocks per game

2021-2022-Sophomore Year

2nd Team All District

All Conference Player of the Year

All Conference Team

MVP Conference Tournament

MOP John Wall

Led team to an Elite 8 Appearance

REFERENCE NAMES (LETTERS ATTACHD AND PICTURE): Rick Lewis and Colby Lewis

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Drake Powell to be considered for the NCHSAA Male Athlete Of The Year. I have had the pleasure of knowing Drake for the past 3 years, as I have served as the Director of Athletics at Northwood High School. He is a young man who has an unbelievable amount of talent on the basketball court, but more importantly, he is a great person.

On the basketball court Drake is one of the most ferocious high school basketball players I have ever witnessed. He is extremely competitive and hates to lose. He does not take a play off when he is on the court. He averaged 18 points per game this season and was a stat stuffer with 7 rebounds and 4 assists per game. He led us to the state championship for the second time in three years. He was named the Central Carolina 3A Conference Player of the Year, NCBCA All District 8 First Team, and NCBCA All State First Team. This past season he scored his 1,000th career point and that includes a shortened season due to Covid 19. Drake could have bolstered all of his stats, but he was a very unselfish player who played on a very good team.

I know that there are many other players who will be considered in their respective sports, but I would like to explain what I think sets Drake apart from other high school student athletes. Drake recently committed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With that commitment and his talent, he has become a celebrity in the small town of Pittsboro. Our gym was packed each game last season. Following games there is a line of young children who ask Drake to take a picture with them. While his teammates head into the locker room, Drake stays out on the court sometimes ten to fifteen minutes until each child takes a picture. Also, on numerous occasions, I have been one of the last people to leave the gym and have noticed Drake in the bleachers picking up trash after basketball games. Drake is also part of a group that attends the local elementary school where he reads to students once a month.

I know you have a difficult task of selecting the NCHSAA Male and Female Athlete Of The Year. Thank you for taking the time to read my recommendation. I think Drake possesses qualities both on and off the court that set him apart from most high school athletes. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Cameron Vernon
Director of Athletics
Northwood High School
724-699-3071

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Drake Powell. Drake Powell is one of the most talented and athletic High School players I have seen in years. His ability on the court is only topped by his ability to lead a team. He is a great athlete, player, teammate, and leader. In his first 3 years in High School, he has been to the State Championship twice. Drake continues to grow as a person and player every day and is a great person to coach. I believe his abilities on the court and the person he is off the court are definitely deserving of athlete of the year. He is something I look forward to watching develop for years to come.

Tyler Zeller