

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

Keita Bates-Diop

The University High School Alumni Association honors Keita Bates-Diop, class of 2014, as a 2019 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession, athletic career, and civic service.

Bates-Diop accomplished success at a very high level in both academics and athletics throughout both his high school and college years.

At U-High, Bates Diop's passion was basketball. He averaged 18.4 points, 6.7 rebounds and 2.3 blocks as a junior. He was considered one of the top 5 candidates for Illinois Mr. Basketball by the Chicago Tribune. Bates-Diop was ranked no. 24 nationally in his class by Rivals.com. Due to his hard work, focus, commitment and sacrifices to be a top athlete and student, Keita received over 15 Division I scholarship offers, including Stanford, Northwestern, Michigan and Purdue. Keita left U-High as it's all time leading scorer, with a record setting 1,497 points scored during his high school career.

After high school, Bates-Diop committed to attend The Ohio State University, where he continued his basketball career, under Coach Thad Matta. Bates-Diop came off the bench as a freshman at OSU in the 2014-15 season. As a sophomore, he expanded his role on the team and averaged 11.8 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. But as a junior, he suffered a stress fracture in his left leg, sitting out all but the first nine games. He was granted a medical redshirt and came into his redshirt junior campaign as team Captain and one of the top options for new coach Chris Holtmann.

Bates-Diop earned his first Big Ten player of the week honors on December 11, 2017, after notching a career-high 27 points in a 97-62 win over William & Mary. On January 9, 2018, Bates-Diop was recognized as the Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week by the United States Basketball Writers Association after strong performances against the Iowa Hawkeyes and beating No. 1 ranked Michigan State. Bates-Diop tied a then-career high with 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in a victory against Iowa. Against Michigan State, he scored a career-high 32 points in an 80-64 win. He also received his second Big Ten player of the week recognition. Bates-Diop received his second consecutive player of the week nod on January 15, with a 26-point, eight rebound outing in a 91-69 win over Maryland and 20 points, nine rebounds in a victory versus Rutgers.

Being a true student athlete, Keita graduated from Ohio State University in 3.5 years, in December 2017, earning his BS in Economics. Keita is also a member of the high scorer's club at Ohio State, where he scored 1,272 points in his college career. In addition, he is included among the top free throw percentage shooters in the history of the program, a team scoring leader and a top rebounder, grabbing 296 rebounds in his final season at Ohio State.

On February 26, 2018, Bates-Diop was named the Big Ten Player of the Year. He averaged 19.8 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Following Ohio State's loss in the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, Bates-Diop announced his intention to forgo his final season of collegiate eligibility and declared for the 2018 NBA Draft.

On June 21, 2018, Bates-Diop was drafted by the Minnesota Timberwolves with the 48th pick in the 2018 NBA draft. On July 7, 2018, Bates-Diop signed with the Timberwolves.

Keita grew up being involved with the community, and that carried on at Ohio State. He traveled to Jamaica in 2015 to represent the basketball program and deliver over three thousand pairs of shoes that were donated to the charity Soles for Souls. He also participated in community service projects related to literacy, provided meals for those in need, raised awareness for the need to know CPR and ensured AED's are available in public spaces. Keita hosted his first basketball camp at U-High in June of 2019, with all proceeds going to his family's foundation to provide AED's to anyone that needs one. Since becoming a member of the Minnesota Timberwolves, Keita has participated in many community service events including literacy programs in Minneapolis schools, helping with baking for a homeless to work program, dedicating new playgrounds, and visiting a Native American community in North Dakota to work with children at an annual camp.

Keita is the brother of 2019 U-High alum, Kai Bates-Diop and the son of Richard and Wilma Bates.

Keita is proud to be a Pioneer and appreciates the experiences U-High offered him academically and athletically.

University High School



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