

DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Allyson Fertig of Douglas High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Fertig is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Douglas 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 field, distinguishes Fertig as Wyoming's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Fertig joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-4 junior forward and center led the Bearcats to a 21-1 record and a berth in the Class 3A state tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Douglas averaged 23.0 points, 13.9 rebounds, 5.0 blocks, 1.3 steals and 1.2 assists through 22 games. A two-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection, the Bearcats are 76-2 since Fertig entered the starting lineup as a freshman and have won back-to-back state championships.

An award-winning artist, Fertig has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach. "Allyson is the difference-maker on the Bearcats," said Chad Ostenson, head coach of Newcastle High. "She has great hands and feet for a girl her size, she has a nice touch and she seems to get every rebound."

Fertig has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Wyoming beginning in the fall of 2021.

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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Fertig joins Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Players of the Year Rylee Hladky (2018-19, Campbell County High School), McKinley Bradshaw (2017-18, Lyman High School), Kalina Smith (2016-17, Campbell County High School), Robbi Ryan (2015-16 & 2014-15, Sheridan High School), and Kaylee Johnson (2013-14, Natrona County High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Fertig also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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