

## **CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Audrey Hofer of Capital High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Hofer is the first Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Hofer as Montana's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Hofer joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahlert High School, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public High School, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.).

The 5-foot-7 sophomore setter led the Bruins to a 34-2 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Hofer amassed 828 assists to go with 162 digs, 110 kills, 54 service aces and 42 blocks while posting a kill percentage of .386. The 2018 Western Class AA Player of the Year, Hofer was also a First Team All-State selection. She concluded her sophomore year with 1,241 assists in her prep volleyball career.

Hofer is a member of Capital High's Bruin Pure Performance Club, members of which act as mentors to area youth advocating for living drug- and alcohol-free lifestyles. She has also volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Audrey runs the entire court and is a fierce competitor," said Patrick Hiller, head coach of C.M. Russell High. "She can initiate the offense, she can be the offense and she can defend the offense coming back."

Hofer has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

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 & 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Hofer joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Raegan Steiner (2017-18, Billings Senior High School), Elsa Godwin (2016-17, Sentinel High School), Caitlin Lonergan (2015-16, Bozeman High School), Taylor Mims (2014-15, Billings Senior High School), and Jace Henderson (2013-14, Billings Senior High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Hofer 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).