

**RAWLINS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Sydney Thorvaldson of Rawlins High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Thorvaldson is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rawlins 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 Thorvaldson as Wyoming's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Thorvaldson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and a three-time Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-4 junior set meet records in all three events she entered at the 2020 Indoor State Meet. She is now the state's most decorated Gatorade award-winner as a runner with five. Thorvaldson set state records in the 1,600-meter run, mile and 3,200 this winter, and her winning time of 10:06.58 in the 3200 set a Simplot Games record and ranks as the nation's No. 8 clocking in prep history. Thorvaldson owns nine state records and is a 15-time state champion.

A member of the Rawlins High School student council, Thorvaldson has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and has donated her time as a teacher's aide at her church. "Sydney is a great competitor who runs so well by herself since she has no competition in Wyoming," said Bret Engdahl, head coach of Cody High School. "She is something to watch."

Thorvaldson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Two-time winner Thorvaldson joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Aubrey Frentheway (2017-18, Cheyenne Central High School), Anna Gibson (2016-17, Jackson Hole High School), Lauren Taubert (2015-16, Natrona County High School), Ann Wingeleth (2014-15, Lyman High School), and Jerayah Davis (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Kelly Walsh High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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