

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

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Audrey Hofer of Capital High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Montana Volleyball Player of the Year. Hofer is the second 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 May, 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.).

Also the state's 2018-19 Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior setter led the Bruins to a 17-0 record and a third straight Class AA state championship this past season. Hofer compiled 482 assists, 116 digs, 60 kills, 25 blocks and 20 service aces, including 47 assists in Capital's 3-2 win over C.M. Russell High in the state final, the Bruins' 71st consecutive victory. An American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American, Hofer was also the Class AA State Player of the Year in 2020. She concluded her prep volleyball career with 2,622 assists.

A member of her local chapter of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes, Hofer has volunteered as a youth volleyball coach in her community. She also donated her time last spring as a virtual teaching assistant for elementary school music classes. "Audrey shows consistency, finesse, quick thinking and leadership on the court," said Kasey Arceniega, head coach of Sentinel High. "Her ability to run any offense and connect with her hitters is unlike any setter I have seen at the high school level."

Hofer has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Montana State University 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 works 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 Hofer joins recent Gatorade Montana Volleyball Players of the Year Paige Bartsch (2019-20, Capital High School), Raegan Steiner (2017-18, Billings Senior High School), and Elsa Godwin (2016-17, Sentinel High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through 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 their choosing. Hofer is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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