

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

CHICAGO (May 27, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Allyson Fertig of Douglas High School as its 2020-21 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 June, Fertig joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair High School, Texas), Maya Moore (2006-07, Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), and Lisa Leslie (1989-90, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-4 senior center led the Bearcats to a 24-0 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Fertig averaged 22.6 points, 13.3 rebounds, 4.5 blocks and 2.2 steals, and she clicked for 13 points, nine rebounds and four blocks in Douglas' win over Lyman High in the state title game. A three-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection, Fertig led the Bearcats to a 100-2 record and three state titles after becoming a starter as a freshman. She concluded her prep basketball career with 1,854 points, 1,198 rebounds and 452 blocks.

An award-winning artist, Fertig has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach. "Allyson is a game-changing player whose statistics do not always show the impact that she has on the game," said Cody Helenbolt, head coach of Douglas High. "Opponents double- and triple-team her and attempt to play physical with her, and she continues to work hard and refuses to let opponents take her out of the game."

Fertig has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Wyoming 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 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), and Kalina Smith (2016-17, Campbell County High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Fertig has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Fertig 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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