

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

CHICAGO (March 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jordan Jones** of **Cheyenne East High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Jones is the third Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cheyenne East 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 court, distinguishes Jones 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, Jones joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Skylar Diggins-Smith (2008-09, Washington High School, Ind.), Nneka Ogumike (2007-08, CyFair 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 6-foot senior forward and guard had led the Thunderbirds to a 23-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A East Regional Tournament semifinals at the time of her selection. Jones averaged 14.8 points, 6.0 rebounds, 3.1 steals and 2.7 assists per game through 23 games. She led the Class 4A East Region in scoring and steals and was one of only two players to rank in the Top 10 in the region in scoring, rebounds and assists.

Jones has volunteered locally with the BEAST Foundation, an afterschool program that offers STEM programs for children and young adults. "Jordan can shoot from anywhere on the court and can play inside and out," said Andrea Joyce, head coach of Jackson High School. "It's hard to find a player [like Jones] that is physical enough to play down low with the bigs, but who also has great guard skills as well."

Jones has maintained a weighted 3.49 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Players of the Year Allyson Fertig (2020-21 & 2019-20, Douglas High School), Rylee Hladky (2018-19, Campbell County High School), and McKinley Bradshaw (2017-18, Lyman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the court. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Jones has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Jones is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.