

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

CHICAGO (June 30, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kate Brigham** of **Jackson Hole High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Brigham is the second Gatorade Wyoming Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Hole 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 Brigham as Wyoming's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Brigham 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 (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The state's 2021-22 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior won the 800- and 1,600-meter runs at the Class 4A state meet for a second straight year this past season, leading the Broncs to an eighth-place finish as a team. Brigham also ran the anchor leg for Jackson Hole's state-title winning sprint medley relay quartet. She took seventh in the 800 at the Arcadia Invitational, clocking this spring's state-best time of 2:11.99.

Brigham was a founding member of her school's Walk or Dance Club, which provides a welcoming environment to new students at Jackson Hole High. She has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and on behalf of ski races in the area. "Different runners mature at different rates, and for Kate, last spring everything came together for her," said Bill Wiley, head coach of Jackson Hole High. "As she experienced success in competition, the frustration that came from her lack of self-confidence disappeared. With this new confidence, she became dominant on the track."

Brigham has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Colorado 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Brigham joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Lauryn Love (2020-21, Campbell County High School), Sydney Thorvaldson (2019-20 & 2018-19, Rawlins High School), and Aubrey Frentheway (2017-18, Cheyenne Central 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 field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Brigham 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. Brigham 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.