

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

**CHICAGO** (March 8, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Molly Hays** of **Cody High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Hays is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cody 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 Hays as Wyoming's best high school girls basketball player. Hays joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Kiki Rice (2021-22, Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minn.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, CyFair High School, Texas), and Candace Parker (2003-04 & 2002-03, Naperville Central High School, Ill.).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-8 junior guard had led the Fillies to a 20-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A West Regional Tournament semifinals. Hays averaged 21.0 points, 5.6 rebounds, 5.1 steals and 3.4 assists per game through 20 games. The 2022 Class 4A West Region Player of the year, Hays led Class 4A during the regular season in scoring, steals and free throw percentage (82.4 percent) and was fourth in assists and field goal percentage (58.3 percent). She entered the regional semifinals with 1,096 points in her prep basketball career.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hays has volunteered locally as a speech pathology intern and as a youth basketball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives on behalf of her church youth group. "Molly has the ability, talent and basketball IQ to completely take over games," said Kayla Gilliam, head coach of Kelly Walsh High School. "She changes the game completely when on the floor. She is a threat with or without the ball in her hands."

Hays has maintained a weighted 4.05 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Hays joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Jones (2021-22, Cheyenne East High School), Allyson Fertig (2020-21 & 2019-20, Douglas High School), and Rylee Hladky (2018-19, Campbell County High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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