

**CAMPBELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Avery Gray** of **Campbell County High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Wyoming Softball Player of the Year**. Gray is the first Gatorade Wyoming Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Campbell County 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 Gray as Wyoming's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Gray joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jordyn Bahl (2020-21, Papillion-La Vista High School, Neb.), Megan Faraimo (2017-18, Cathedral Catholic High School, Calif.), Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.) and Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-4 junior right-handed pitcher and infielder led the Camels to a 20-9 record and a trip to the losers' bracket final in the state tournament this past season. Gray led the state with a .707 batting average, 72 RBI and 70 hits. She also went 10-4 in the pitcher's circle with a 2.99 ERA and 164 strikeouts, averaging 1.9 per inning. She concluded her prep career with a state-record 526 strikeouts.

A National Honor Society Member, Gray has volunteered locally with the Blessings in a Backpack program, which provides food to needy children in the community. She also has donated her time giving pitching lessons to local youth softball players. "Avery Gray is an all around top-notch player on the mound and at the plate," said Jodie Fitzwater, Wheatland High School head coach. "Campbell relies heavily on Avery as she is their ace pitcher and carries a lot of the team's success on her shoulders."

Gray has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Montana State University-Billings beginning in the fall of 2024.

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.

Gray joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Softball Player of the Year Brogan Allen (2021-22, Cheyenne Central High School).

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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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