

**BILLINGS WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 28, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Alysa Keller** of **Billings West High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Keller is the second Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Billings West 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 Keller as Montana'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, Keller joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jasmine Moore (2018-19, Lake Ridge High School, Texas), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.), and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa).

The 5-foot-8 senior won the javelin at the Class AA state meet this past season, completing an unbeaten campaign in her primary event and leading the Golden Bears to an eighth-place finish as a team. Keller's personal-best throw of 157 feet, 1 inch this spring ranked No. 11 nationally among girls prep competitors in 2023. She added 14 feet to her top throw as a junior and repeated as state champion.

Keller volunteers locally as a mentor and leader for her church's youth group. She has also donated her time providing regular care for a foster baby at her church. "Alysa Keller was not only one of the most improved athletes in Montana during her final high school season, but also the most dominant," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "Keller consistently surpassed the 150-foot mark on her way to winning back-to-back Class AA titles in her signature event and elevating herself to No. 3 in history among prep girls from Montana, a state rich in throwing tradition."

Keller has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Brigham Young University 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.

Keller joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Kensey May (2021-22, Hellgate High School), Klaire Kovatch (2020-21, Seeley-Swan High School), and Angellica Street (2019-20 & 2018-19, Columbia Falls 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.