

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

CHICAGO (March 14, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Molly Hays** of **Cody High School** is the **2023-24 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 celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Hays as Wyoming’s best high school girls basketball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Candace Parker (2003-04, 2002-03 & 2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Paige Bueckers (2017-18, Hopkins High School, Minn.) and Juju Watkins (2022-23 & 2021-22, Sierra Canyon School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8 senior guard averaged 22.7 points, 5.6 rebounds, 5.3 steals and 2.5 assists per game this past season, leading the Fillies (22-3) to the Class 4A state semifinals. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year and two-time Class 4A West Region Player of the Year, Hays injured her knee early in the state semifinal loss to Sheridan High School and was lost for the game. She led Class 4A in scoring and steals for a second straight year and concluded her prep basketball career No. 16 on the state’s career scoring list with 1,689 points.

A member of her local chapter 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 through her church youth group. “Molly impacts the game heavily in every aspect on the court plus she is an exceptional leader to her teammates,” said Chris Edwards, head coach of Lovell High School. “Molly plays with such poise on the court and dominates the game.”

Hays has maintained a weighted 4.09 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Idaho State 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.

Two-time winner Hays joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Jones (2021-22, Cheyenne East High School) and Allyson Fertig (2020-21 & 2019-20, Douglas High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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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