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

CHICAGO (June 25, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Olivia Lewis** of **Corvallis High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Lewis is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Corvallis High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Lewis as Montana's best high school girls track & field athlete. 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 Sanya Richards-Ross (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fla), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-7 senior sprinter/hurdler broke one state record and won three gold medals at the state meet this past season, leading the Blue Devils to the Class A team state championship. Lewis broke the tape in 41.86 seconds in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles to set a new state standard—the time ranked No. 19 in the nation at the time of her selection. She also earned gold in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.49 and in the 400, clocking a 55.52.

Lewis has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics as well as for the Colors For Cancer 5K. She has also participated in highway cleanups and food drives for those in need. "Despite national federation rules limiting an athlete to a maximum of six events in a meet, Olivia Lewis took advantage of an overriding Montana rule and leveraged her versatility to score in seven events at the state meet," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com "Winning three gold medals and qualifying for the finals in all seven, she factored in 39 of her school's 92.5 points and led Corvallis to the team championship. Lewis exhibited not only versatility, but also extreme durability."

Lewis has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Montana State University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Alysa Keller (2022-23, Billings West High School), Kensey May (2021-22, Hellgate High School), Klaire Kovatch (2020-21, Seeley-Swan High School) and Angellica Street (2019-20, Columbia Falls 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.