HUNTLEY PROJECT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 13, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Paige Lofing** of **Huntley Project High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Lofing is the first Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntley Project High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Lofing as Montana's best high school girls basketball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Candace Parker (2002-03 & 2003-04, Naperville Central High School, Illinois), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minnesota) and Joyce Edwards (2023-24, Camden High School, South Carolina).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-9 senior guard had led the Red Devils to an 18-2 record and a berth in Montana's Class B divisional tournament. Lofing averaged 23.3 points, 4.7 steals, 4.6 rebounds and 4.0 assists through 20 games this season, shooting 56 percent from the field and 40 percent from beyond the arc. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she entered the divisional tournament as the state's fourth-ranked career scorer with 2,327 career points.

A three-year National Honor Society member, Lofing has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a high school peer mentor. She also played for her school's inaugural flag football team. "The things she does on the court and what she brings to that program and community are amazing," said Kati Mobley, Bozeman High School head coach. "She can impact a game and draw defenders, but still puts up numbers."

Lofing has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Gonzaga 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

Lofing joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Breanna Williams (2023-24 & 2022-23, Skyview High School), Mya Hansen (2021-22, Billings Central Catholic High School) and Dani Bartsch (2020-21, Capital 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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.