## PINEDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (March 13, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Elyn Bowers** of **Pinedale High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player** of the **Year**. Bowers is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinedale 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 Bowers as Wyoming'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-8 senior point guard had led the Wranglers to a 22-2 record and a berth in the Class 3A state quarterfinals. Bowers averaged 26.5 points, 4.4 steals, 4.3 assists and 4.1 rebounds through 24 games. A three-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection, Bowers is also a two-time Class 3A West Division Player of the Year. She entered the state quarterfinals with 2,193 points in her prep basketball career, which ranks No. 3 on the state's all-time list.

A talented artist who enjoys making ceramics and pottery, Bowers has volunteered locally with Pinedale's Soup-er-Bowl, serving as emcee and auctioneer for the fundraiser to benefit the Pinedale Angel Wreath program. She has also donated her time as a peer mentor and as a youth basketball coach. "Elyn has a remarkable set of skills and can impact the game in so many ways," said Chris Wagner, head coach of Cody High School. "She's lethal if she gets in rhythm from 3, she can pull up off the dribble and she can get airborne and finish at the basket. I feel her defense can get overlooked because of how much attention she gets on offense, but she is a great defender as well."

Bowers has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her class. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball at Eastern Washington 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 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.

Bowers joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Basketball Players of the Year Molly Hays (2023-24 & 2022-23, Cody High School), Jordan Jones (2021-22, Cheyenne East High School) and Allyson Fertig (2020-21, 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, 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>.

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