

## January Athlete of the Month: Tyra Gates

BY MATT NIEDERBAUMER, CFP® Vantage Financial, Partner, Senior Wealth Advisor

Senior Tyra Gates of Miller High School is a year-round athlete competing in volleyball, basketball, track, and rodeo. She began volleyball and basketball in 4th grade and recently wrapped up her last volleyball season as setter. Tyra served as team captain throughout her high school career. She earned her 1,000 assist mark last year and finished her final season with a total of 2,063 assists, 95 blocks, 764 digs, and 120 kills! Head volleyball coach Linda DeBoer enthusiastically shared, “Tyra is a great teammate who supports and encourages others and uses her individual goals to enhance the team’s goal of effectiveness and efficiency.” It’s evident Tyra has made a strong impression on those around her. “She is the type of young lady who reflects great character, hard work, leadership, and integrity,” Coach DeBoer commented. Recently, Tyra transitioned into her final basketball season where she plays point guard. She hopes to make it to the state tournament this year and continue to be a leader for the team. Following basketball, her busiest time of the year commences with track and rodeo season overlapping. To overcome this challenge, Tyra has become diligent in her planning, while doing her best to be both a successful student and athlete. Tyra has participated in track for the last six years earning 3rd in the 4x100 relay and 6th in the 4x400 relay her junior season. Rodeo is her longest ongoing sport, having started 10 years ago! She has a true passion for horses and competes in barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying, breakaway roping, and ribbon roping. She received Reserve All-Around and Heartland All-Around Champion this past spring. Tyra hopes to be the state breakaway champion this year and make the national team with the competition held in Gillette, WY!

Staying disciplined to keep up with her academic demands, Tyra has accrued an impressive record of high school courses, including some dual credits for college. She pushes herself academically while finding time in her busy schedule for a few extracurricular activities. She has competed in 4H for the last 10 years, FFA contests for three years, and volunteered for the Beau Keeter Give Back Day in Miller the past four years. Tyra has a willingness and desire to be present in her community; this past summer she became a referee and coach for her school’s 4th – 6th grade volleyball camp. After graduation, Tyra plans to play basketball at Dakota Wesleyan University and pursue business with a minor in coaching.

To obtain an application for the Athlete of the Month Scholarship program email [bfast@vfplanning.com](mailto:bfast@vfplanning.com), visit Vantage Financial Partners website at [www.vfplanning.com](http://www.vfplanning.com), or ask your high school guidance counselor. If you are a high school senior who plays sports, attends a SD high school, you are eligible to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship.



### Getting to know Tyra:

#### FAVORITE QUOTE:

“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” - Tim Notke

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Mashed potatoes and gravy

#### HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER:

When I scored a buzzer beater in basketball to make it to the Sweet 16 game. I was a sophomore, and we were playing against Chamberlain. It was a special moment that I will always remember.

#### FAVORITE CLASS:

Speech with Mrs. DeBoer. It is a stressful class, but the games and body language activities I learned made it so much fun!

#### FAVORITE FAMILY HOLIDAY TRADITION:

Ever since I was little, we have played Christmas bingo. My grandma always buys prizes, so if you win a round of bingo you get to pick out of the prize box.



PHOTO TAKEN BY RODEO READY, CLAY GUARDIPEE

#### FUN FACT:

I enjoy loom beading and have an addiction to buying shoes.




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