

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR



Jillian Gandsey / Bemidji Pioneer

# Do good, feel good

Chelsea DeVille found success for herself once she poured into others

**By Micah Friez**  
The Bemidji Pioneer

**F**our years into the job, Chelsea DeVille realized her mindset wasn't sustainable.

"I was being selfish, just worrying about wins and losses," said the Bemidji State women's basketball head coach. "I needed to start focusing on other people. Ever since I changed that – whether we win or lose – by doing good, I'm feeling good."

Wins were far more frequent in 2021, but it's her slew of extracurriculars that

"I'm actually very thankful that I wear so many hats. Going through losing seasons, sometimes you just focus on that and on yourself. I had to buck up and get out of my own hole that I dug, realize that it's not about me."

**CHELSEA DEVILLE**

have made on-court success more attainable and that much sweeter. DeVille's "do good, feel good" mantra has been the driving force toward her winning the 2021 Pioneer Sportsperson of the Year award.

"It's hard to win basketball games, so if that's the only joy

different avenues."

The Pioneer's Sportsperson of the Year award, first introduced in 2020, is meant to annually recognize a sports figure who significantly went above and beyond within the Bemidji community.

DeVille's résumé is hard to beat: She led the Beavers to their most successful season in decades, she's an active leader in many BSU and community organizations, and she's a tireless advocate for the Jane Comfort family.

"I'm actually very thankful that I wear

so many hats," DeVille said. "Going through losing seasons, sometimes you just focus on that and on yourself. I had to buck up and get out of my own hole that I dug, realize that it's not about me."

**More than a checklist**

When you visit DeVille's office, one of the first things you see is Maya Moore.

Moore is depicted on a wall hanging with her arms spread out, a

**GOOD:** Page B2