

**LEXINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Joanna Bryant of Lexington Catholic High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Bryant as Kentucky’s best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colorado), Riley Jackson (2021-22, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Georgia) and Addison Halpern (2024-25, Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey).

The 5-foot-7 senior forward led the Knights to a 19-4-1 record and the state semifinals this past season. Bryant scored 33 goals, passed for 22 assists and was involved in 12 goals during Lexington Catholic High School postseason run. The Lady Knights’ Challenge Cup Tournament MVP, she was a 2025 United Soccer Coaches All-American selection.

Bryant has donated her time as a youth soccer coach. She has also created her own company “JBEEZ Honey,” through which she’s explored her passion for business and entrepreneurship. “Joanna is the complete attacking package,” said Scott Deopore, head coach of Bethlehem High School. “She’s really gifted on the ball—able to distribute, create and finish at an elite level. Bryant’s rare combination of vision, technical quality and finishing ability make her not only a game-changer but one of the state’s most dynamic and influential players. You would be hard-pressed to find a better player this season.”

Bryant has maintained a 4.31 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play soccer on scholarship at Miami University (Ohio) this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

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

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